

Chicago cardinal visits Dome of Rock

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Carefully placing his shoes alongside dozens of others piled around the entrance, the cardinal of Chicago stepped into Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock Sunday. "What I think is important is that there be peace, so that no matter what one's faith may be, one may feel at peace to worship," Cardinal Joseph Bernardin told reporters. Cardinal Bernardin, who also met Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is leading a 15-member delegation of Jews and Catholics from Chicago aimed at fostering dialogue between the two communities. "When we are back home, we think our religions are so different," he said after leaving the gold-topped shrine. "But here in Jerusalem, we see that we really have common roots." Cardinal Bernardin, who arrived last Tuesday, said the most moving part of his visit so far was his walk through the Via Dolorosa along the route used to reenact the events of Christ's crucifixion. Cardinal Bernardin has also toured the Church of the Nativity, the West Bank and visited the Church of the Nativity. On Tuesday he is to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Bahrain, UAE ministers arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — Bahraini Minister of Trade and Agriculture Habib Ahmad Qassem, who is also head of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development's (AOAD) executive board, arrived here Sunday on several-day official visit to Jordan to take part in the AOAD's third executive board session which starts here today (Monday). Mr. Qassem was received upon arrival by Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif. United Arab Emirates Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Said Al Raqhani also arrived here Sunday to take part in the AOAD's meetings.

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King vows all help to bridge Israeli-Palestinian differences

HM, in speech at Los Angeles World Affairs Council, says fight against poverty, unemployment is vital

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has said there were "grave difficulties" in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and vowed to help the parties work out their differences. At a speech in Los Angeles, King Hussein said: "In spite of many grave difficulties, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations continue. We pray for their success." "And I would reiterate Jordan's commitment to work with all parties concerned at all levels to help bring about a successful conclusion to the various components of the peace process," he said.

Hussein gave the keynote address and later answered questions from the audience. Mr. Eli Broad, the chairman of the council, introduced the King as a man who has "never ceased to impress his many admirers in shaping the destiny of his country and of the people of Jordan." He praised the King for "removing the people of Jordan from the devastating shadow of war" by his bold decision to sign a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. Asked what would happen should Iraq become involved in hostilities with its neighbors, the King said: "We will never support hostilities between Iraq and its neighbors. We will never allow the occupation of Kuwait."

King Hussein said one of the major problems facing the Middle East in its quest for peace was poverty and unemployment among its peoples. "Years of conflict have shattered the economies of the Middle East. The massive burdens of defence have wasted our human and material resources. Furthermore, chronic instability has prevented real development from touching the daily lives of our people," he said. The result, he added, was "poverty, unemployment and uncertainty as to what the future may hold."

He said the private sector must be allowed to operate freely in the region if domestic and foreign investment was to breathe new life into its exhausted economy. King Hussein is scheduled to meet with President Bill Clinton Monday in Washington. The two last met during the peace treaty signing on the Jordanian-Israeli border on Oct. 26. King Hussein Friday was awarded a peace medal by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, the first time an Arab leader has been so honoured by the influential organisation. In his speech on Saturday, King Hussein stressed Jordan's unwavering commitment to a just, balanced and comprehensive peace in the region. By providing an "umbrella" for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, Jordan facilitated the way for the Palestinians to engage in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations with Israel.

In September 1993, the Palestinians and the Israelis signed the Oslo agreement, which was followed by the Cairo accord, more widely known as the "Gaza-Jericho first." The King reiterated Jordan's commitment to assist all parties concerned to successfully conclude the peace process. Regarding Jordan's treaty with Israel, which is based on U.N. Resolution 242, King Hussein expressed his pride in Jordan's restoration of all of its territorial and water rights. However, he stressed that the challenge of peace building lies in creating optimal conditions that will replace the painful legacy of 47 years of conflict, warning that the forces of radicalism opposing the peace process will "find a fertile soil in discontent and hopelessness."

To combat them is to "fight against poverty, unemployment and social exclusion." (Continued on page 7)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with U.S. actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife broadcast journalist Maria Schriver at the Simon Wiesenthal Centre (AFP photo)

Panel studies antiquities law

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee entrusted with preparing for a workshop on amending the Jordanian antiquities law held a preliminary meeting at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) on Sunday. The committee members discussed issues to be discussed at the workshop which will be held in April. They reviewed a draft law on antiquities and heritage prepared by Khair Yassin, dean of the faculty of arts at the University of Jordan and professor of oriental history and archaeology. Friends of archaeology Society member Issa Shablin said the draft will be presented to the government's concerned departments for study and approval in view of the dire need for a law encompassing antiquities and heritage.

Hizbollah rejects dialogue with U.S.

BEIRUT (R) — Hizbollah, the main group trying to dislodge Israel from southern Lebanon, on Sunday rejected the possibility of dialogue with Washington and called for a pan-Islamic boycott of the United States. "We have been reading reports in the press that some Arab countries are trying to start a dialogue between the U.S. government and Hizbollah," the party's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, said. "Let all know that we reject any dialogue or any form of contacts with the United States. We are convinced that the United States is the great Satan and the foremost enemy of Islam," Sheikh Nasrallah added.

37 Egyptians held in anti-Israel protests

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police have arrested 37 militants and tortured many of them for protesting against Israel's participation in the Cairo Fair, the Nasserite Arab Democratic Party said Sunday. Most were detained Wednesday and Friday during demonstrations at a Cairo university and fair itself, said the party. The Nasserites, named after late President Jamal Abdul Nasser, released a list of the 37 people, who included Islamic activists, Marxists and other left-wingers. "The Egyptian people refuses all normalisation with the Zionists," Nasserite Party General Secretary Diaddin Daoud told a press conference.

Aziz rejects U.N. draft on limited oil exports

Washington seeks to free Americans sentenced to jail

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Sunday rejected a draft U.N. resolution aimed at allowing Baghdad to sell \$1 billion worth of oil every three months to help it buy food and medicine for its people. Iraq also pledged defiance against the United States in violent press attacks, but remained silent on the jailing of two Americans announced by Washington. The daily Al Thawra, the mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, wrote: "America believes it can rule the world but Iraq will never bow down."

"America is more and more impotent and its interference in the region proves to people that it is only seeking to protect its own interests," said Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday. There was no reference to an announcement by the U.S. State Department that two Americans had been jailed for eight years for "illegal entry" into Iraq. The State Department said that it was trying through diplomatic channels to secure the release of William Barlow and David Dalbert. The White House said that it planned to work chiefly outside the United Nations for the release of the two Americans sentenced to eight years in prison for illegally entering Iraq.

"This is a matter, I think, that is better served in terms of handling it through diplomatic channels on a private basis, not before the United Nations," White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said on the NBC TV programme "Meet the Press." The State Department said Saturday that Iraq had sentenced Mr. Barlow and Mr. Dalbert each to eight years imprisonment for illegally entering Iraq after they strayed from Kuwait across the badly-marked demilitarised zone. Mr. Panetta steered clear of tying the Americans' release to the timing of any future decision to lift U.N. economic sanctions dating to the 1991 Gulf war. "I'm not going to comment at all on any kind of conditions here with regards to these two. These two made an innocent mistake. They should be released," he said. Mr. Panetta added that the (Continued on page 3)

Algerian offensive killed more than 600 — report

ALGIERS (Agencies) — An Algerian newspaper reported Sunday that a government offensive against militants had left more than 600 people dead, twice as high as previous estimates of the toll. The paper, Le Soir, quoted what it called reliable sources. Another newspaper, Al Watan, said Saturday that more than 300 fundamentalists had died in the air and ground operation which began a week ago and was concluded Sunday in the 'Ain Defla region, 150 kilometres west of Algiers. The government has refused to confirm or deny the offensive. The Algerian press is calling it the army's biggest offensive since an insurrection aimed at ousting the military-backed government was launched in January 1992 following the cancellation of elections an Islamic party was poised to win. Le Soir said elite army troops backed by helicopters attacked 1,000 men belonging to the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical of the fundamentalist organisations fighting the government. The paper said these men were in 'Ain Defla for a meeting of their movement. Some who escaped the carnage were surrounded in dense forest at the weekend and "have practically no chance of escaping the Algerian army special forces," said La Tribune, another Algerian daily. Algerian commentators said the fact that the newspapers were allowed to carry the reports appeared to be tacit official confirmation of the operation. Algeria's military-backed authorities rigorously control what security issues can be carried by the country's media and neither newspaper mention army casualties in the battle against well-armed militants. Meanwhile, two girls, aged 15, have been kidnapped from school in the western city of Oran, two weeks after another teenager was grabbed from school and had her throat slit by suspected Muslim fundamentalists. The Algerian newspaper Liberté said on Sunday two men dragged the girls during the week from Al Karma college, as other pupils screamed in protest, and pushed them into a van. They have not been seen since. At least 12 Algerian women have been killed in the past three weeks, including 15-year-old, Fatima Ghodhane, whose body was dumped nearly metres from her school, south of Algiers. Earlier this month, security forces said 112 women were killed, 12 wounded and 28 kidnapped and raped between August 1993 and last December. La Tribune said on Sunday that the killing of women had caused conflict between the two main armed groups fighting to topple the authorities. La Tribune quoted a statement from the regional leadership of the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) denouncing the rival armed Islamic Group (GIA) for "barbarous acts against women, kidnapped and raped, (and) considered as war captives."

The GIA, considered more ruthless than the AIS, had "disarmed some AIS members and threatened them with death," the newspaper said. It added that the rivalry between the two would at least help the security forces in their battle against the Islamists. In Abu Dhabi, an Algerian minister said on Sunday his (Continued on page 7)

their camp and defiantly rejected Ankara's claims to have trapped the PKK. General Hasan Kundakci, Turkish commander, said Saturday his army had totally destroyed 25 PKK camps and killed 168 guerrillas since the operation began. Military strategists said Sunday the army had sealed off an area of around 8,400 square kilometres in northern Iraq and ready to close in on the rebel Kurds. "Turkey tries to intimidate us with their war propaganda but we're well informed about the fighting," said the PKK camp official, sitting on a rotten mattress in an abandoned house in Enze. "It's silly of Turkey to claim that they have destroyed 25 of our camps because we never stay long in any camp. We have about 1,000 camps in the border region which change their location continuously." He said PKK fighters could still move freely between the border town of Zakho, held by Turkish troops and the eastern border with Iran. Meanwhile, the United Nations on Sunday evacuated more than 1,000 Turkish Kurd refugees, most of them women and children, out of the line of fire as Turkey pressed its anti-rebel drive in northern Iraq. A convoy of 40 trucks and minibuses, protected by U.N. guards, arrived at the Atrush refugee camp from the Iraqi border town of Zakho, 100 kilometres by road to the north. Some vehicles spluttered to a halt as they moved through steep mountain passes in the four-hour trip but, there was no sign of the Turkish soldiers the refugees fear. The Kurds, many of whom said they had already fled heavy-handed tactics by Turkish security forces fighting PKK rebels last year, up-loaded possessions — including chickens and sheep — on arrival. (Continued on page 7)

Israel says Palestinian poll date can be met

JERICHO (Agencies) — An Israeli negotiator said on Sunday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel could meet a July 1st deadline to conclude an accord on elections of a Palestinian council in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We can complete the job on elections by July," said Yoel Singer after meeting Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. Dr. Erekat told reporters progress was made last month when the sides moved from months of exchanging papers to joint drafting of an election accord. But he said there were still key gaps. "There are several points on which we differ such as participation of Palestinians in Jerusalem in elections, agreed supervision, and the number of seats in the Palestinian council," Dr. Erekat said. To break an impasse on next stages of the 1993 interim PLO-Israel peace deal originally slated for last July, the sides set July 1st as a deadline for agreement on elections, Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank, and security arrangements. Mr. Singer and Dr. Erekat, chief negotiators, met for three hours in the West Bank Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho on Sunday ahead of the next round of negotiations in Cairo on Tuesday. They told reporters that talks on Tuesday would focus on the structure of the Palestinian council to be elected. Dr. Erekat said Israel was insisting East Jerusalem residents could not run and would only agree on a 25-seat

Council, whereas the Palestinians want a 100-seat council. Mr. Singer said earlier: "I'm going to meet Saeb Erekat to consider the presence of international observers who would come from around the world, including Jordan, Egypt and Israel," he said. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is expected to remain in Jericho until Wednesday, toured the oasis city on Saturday when he told residents that the "Palestinians are ready to hold election after the withdrawal of Israeli troops." Meanwhile, the PLO is demanding a halt to Israel trade restrictions and "confiscation" of Palestinian tax revenues which threaten to sabotage their peace deal, a senior Palestinian official said. Khaled Salam, Mr. Arafat's economic adviser, said the financially-strapped Palestinian self-rule authority would reject normalisation of trade between Israel and Arab states because of Israeli punitive measures. Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip and West Bank in January following militant attacks which killed scores of Israelis. The closure restricts the entry of Palestinian labourers into Israel and limits mutual trade. Mr. Salem told Reuters: "The continuation of the Israeli government's unjustified measures by imposing security conditions on the Palestinian economy might lead to destruction of the whole political process." He said the Israelis were preventing the passage of (Continued on page 7)

Rabin, Netanyahu in war of words

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has launched an attack of unprecedented ferocity on the right-wing Likud Party, prompting opponents to suggest he has "lost his head" after a new setback in opinion polls. Mr. Rabin, who heads the Labour Party, accused his main political rivals of "political collaboration" with Palestinian extremists, in an interview published in the Yediot Aharonot daily Sunday. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad "hope that Likud will provoke the suspension of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians" every time they carry out an attack, Mr. Rabin said. "The terrorists and Likud have a shared political interest — to end the peace process." Mr. Rabin's accusations echoed his condemnation of Likud on state television Friday. "With each terrorist attack Likud blames the government and not the killers, which can only encourage further terrorism," Mr. Rabin said. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu retorted Sunday that Mr. Rabin had "lost his head." "Under pressure from opinion polls the prime minister is trying to make people forget the failure of his policies and attacks the opposition rather than fighting terrorists," Mr. Netanyahu told college students in Tel Aviv. The independent daily Haaretz said Sunday that Mr. (Continued on page 7)

Kurds defiant in face of Turkish push

ENZE, Iraq (Agencies) — Kurdish rebels hiding near the northern Iraqi village of Enze said Sunday the Turkish army had failed to destroy their camps or surround their positions in a massive operation involving 35,000 troops. "The Turkish troops can never surround us completely. The terrain is too hilly, difficult, unknown for them," an official of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) told AFP. Around 400 PKK fighters are living in a camp near Enze, in mountains 30 kilometres south of the Iraqi-Turkish border, villagers said. Their checkpoint along a rough, muddy road is so well-hidden that visitors need a village guide to find it. Iraqi Kurdish inhabitants of Enze have fled since Turkish troops backed by armour and warplanes swept across the border last Monday to root out PKK rebels. But the Turkish Kurds, men and women, remained in

their camp and defiantly rejected Ankara's claims to have trapped the PKK. General Hasan Kundakci, Turkish commander, said Saturday his army had totally destroyed 25 PKK camps and killed 168 guerrillas since the operation began. Military strategists said Sunday the army had sealed off an area of around 8,400 square kilometres in northern Iraq and ready to close in on the rebel Kurds. "Turkey tries to intimidate us with their war propaganda but we're well informed about the fighting," said the PKK camp official, sitting on a rotten mattress in an abandoned house in Enze. "It's silly of Turkey to claim that they have destroyed 25 of our camps because we never stay long in any camp. We have about 1,000 camps in the border region which change their location continuously." He said PKK fighters could still move freely between the border town of Zakho, held by Turkish troops and the eastern border with Iran. Meanwhile, the United Nations on Sunday evacuated more than 1,000 Turkish Kurd refugees, most of them women and children, out of the line of fire as Turkey pressed its anti-rebel drive in northern Iraq. A convoy of 40 trucks and minibuses, protected by U.N. guards, arrived at the Atrush refugee camp from the Iraqi border town of Zakho, 100 kilometres by road to the north. Some vehicles spluttered to a halt as they moved through steep mountain passes in the four-hour trip but, there was no sign of the Turkish soldiers the refugees fear. The Kurds, many of whom said they had already fled heavy-handed tactics by Turkish security forces fighting PKK rebels last year, up-loaded possessions — including chickens and sheep — on arrival. (Continued on page 7)

League decries Turkish push

THE ARAB League, chided by Iraq for its silence on Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq, denounced the campaign Sunday as a breach of international sovereignty. Nabil Nejm, Iraq's representative to the Arab League, had criticised it for failing to condemn the invasion. "What is the Arab position on the threats to Arab national security?" Mr. Nejm asked in a statement issued last week. The 22-nation league has been bogged down by disputes, particularly over the Gulf war when most members opposed Iraq. Its statement Sunday denounced the Turkish invasion, calling it "a breach of the principles of international law."

Torture on rise in Palestinian jails, rights groups warn

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Drug dealers and alleged Israeli informers are increasingly subjected to beatings and torture during interrogation in Palestinian jails, human rights activists say.

Interrogators do not use torture systematically, they say, but have resorted to it more and more since a clash between Palestinian police and Islamists that left 13 people dead last November 18.

Palestinian authorities blamed Israeli "collaborators" for triggering the violence in an attempt to ignite a civil war.

Gaza police hauled in known informers after a Nov. 2 car bomb killed Hani Abed, a leader of the Islamic Jihad group. The authorities blamed Israel.

Since the killings, complaints of torture during interrogation have risen, said Ahmad Sayyad, a lawyer with the Mandela Institute for Political Prisoners, based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Ramallah.

"The information we have is that it is being used especially on collaborators and drug dealers," he said.

"There is torture, it is practiced widely," said Mazen Shakur of the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, a human rights organisation affiliated to the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists.

Palestinian police have tortured two Palestinians to death — one, an alleged informer, in the autonomous enclave of Jericho in January and another in Gaza last July. None of the officers involved have been punished, reports say.

Mr. Shakur said the centre was handing about seven cases of torture.

"The prosecution only finds out if a family complains," but relatives of suspected collaborators are usually afraid to talk, Mr. Shakur said.

Police sources said in a recent wave of arrests in southern Gaza, interrogators beat suspected collaborators unconscious, leaving bloodstains on the walls of interrogation rooms.

Yousef suspected of role in bombing in Mashad

KARACHI (AFP) — Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, accused of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing, may also be linked to a bomb blast in Iran last year which left 25 people dead, a police report received here Sunday said.

The report, obtained here by AFP, also revealed details of an alleged plot to kill Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Yousef was named as the man who carried out the bombing in Mashad, by Abdul Shakoor who was arrested in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar this month, along with five other men suspected of involvement in the blast.

All six — three Sudanese, two Pakistanis and one man who is believed to be Iranian — are thought to be associates of Yousef.

Yousef was extradited from Pakistan to the United States in connection with the 1993 New York bombing last month. In a statement released through his New York lawyer on Friday, Yousef acknowledged he was an "explosives expert."

The report detailing the Shakoor interrogation by police in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, in which he claimed that Yousef's brother, Abdul Muneem, had told him that Yousef was "responsible for that (Mashad) blast."

A total of 25 people died and 70 others were injured in the blast at Imam Reza's mausoleum in the city last June.

No further details of the allegations were immediately available and Peshawar police refused to comment.

Muneem, according to Shakoor, lives in the southern Pakistani city of Quetta.

The report also gave details of a 1993 plot to assassinate Mr. Bhutto. It alleged that Yousef was due to carry out the attack, but was prevented from doing so after one of his eyes and his hand were injured when explosives he was handling detonated suddenly.

Two other men also believed to be associates of Yousef's were detained this week in this southern port city of Karachi, police said.

Turkish incursion into Iraq

A COLUMN of Turkish soldiers returns to base after close combat with PKK (Kurdish Labour Party) rebels in northern Iraq. The commander of the Turkish forces, General Hassan Kuddakci, said Saturday that all Kurdish separatist camps in northern Iraq have been destroyed and 168 Kurds killed since the incursion began six days ago (see page one) (AFP photo)



Algeria foreign minister urges Arab solidarity

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammed Salah Dembri on Saturday called on Arab countries to mend ties which were ruptured by the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

"We now need an Arab World that renews the method of common Arab work," Mr. Dembri said in Kuwait on the first visit to the emirate by an Algerian official since Iraq's 1990 invasion.

"The preservation of the status of the Arab World within the new world order requires of us to overcome all differences and to walk forward with a new vision," Mr. Dembri told a news conference.

"This is the message that we wish to convey to all those who care about the joint destiny (of Arabs)," he said before he left Kuwait for the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait's ties with most North African states, including Algeria, were strained by what the emirate regarded as their sympathy for Iraq during the crisis.

Before the invasion, North African states were recipients of large Kuwaiti development assistance. Kuwait stopped or curtailed the assistance after its 1991 liberation.

The seven-month 1990-91 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait divided Arabs into those who supported a U.S.-led coalition that ousted Iraqi troops from the emirate and those who opposed it.

"What matters is how to treat these wounds and build for the joint future, because we have to co-exist," Mr. Dembri said.

He refused to comment on Kuwaiti demands for reconciliation with Iraq's friends, which include condemning the invasion and using their ties with Baghdad to secure the release of some 600 people who Kuwait says are held by Iraq. Baghdad denies the charges.

Mr. Dembri said he delivered a letter from Algerian President Liamine Zerroul to Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and held talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah on economic cooperation.

French policy denounced

To cries of "a visa equals a life," some 3,000 people demonstrated Saturday against France's visa policy towards Algerians, saying it endangered

those trying to flee an Islamic insurgency in the north African country.

The demonstrators, who came from around France, gathered in front of the foreign ministry's visa office in Nantes, moved out of Paris last year as part of a general relocation programme.

The demonstrators then marched through the streets of Nantes, west of the capital. The protest coincided with a call published Saturday in the newspaper Le Monde for "the right to asylum and hospitality" for Algerian refugees.

The severely worded manifesto was signed by more than 1,000 artists and intellectuals.

France, Algeria's former colonial ruler, last year accorded less than 100,000 visas to Algerians, compared to 290,000 in 1993.

On Friday, Amnesty International criticised France's "very restrictive" immigration policy. It said the number of Algerians returned to their country has been on the rise, to nearly 3,500 last year from 2,673 in 1993.

"The French state, knowing the bloody fate that awaits a martyred community, refuses to welcome those threatened," read the manifesto in Le Monde which filled an entire page.

"This is not the first time in our history. And so it is worse. There is an odor of Vichy in this kingdom," reads the manifesto, alluding to France's history of collusion with Nazi Germany during World War II.

In Nantes, demonstrators shouted, "Algeria, a visa equals a life." Among those present were the president of the League of Human Rights, Henri Leclerc, and noted philosopher Jacques Derrida.

Among Algerians seeking refuge in France are intellectuals, journalists, teachers and even police targeted by extremists in their three-year-old effort to topple the military-backed government there.

New immigration laws passed last year make it tougher to get visas to enter France and make it harder to stay here.

In addition, Algerians are now forced to apply for visas by mail since the visa service at the French embassy has been transferred to France for security reasons. The United States and Britain also have transferred their visa services out of the country.

An estimated 30,000 people have been killed in Algeria in three years.

Lebanese farmers: U.N. not helping eliminate drug fields

BAALBACK, Lebanon (AFP) — Lebanese farmers protested Saturday that the United Nations was failing to give them sufficient financial help in a project to switch from drugs to other crops.

"The contribution of a single drug trafficker is likely to do more for the development of the region than the U.N. programme," said Hassan Dandache, a representative of farmers' cooperatives.

"That will give ammunition to those who call for a resumption of drugs cultivation," he said.

He was speaking at a meeting of farmers' cooperatives with deputies, Agriculture Minister Adel Cortas and U.N. officials.

The U.N. Development Programme has a budget of \$4.25 million for its first phase in 1994-1995 to help farmers convert to crops other than opium poppies and cannabis, which flourished during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

The second phase from 1996-1997 requires \$12 million, but aid from donor countries is arriving in a trickle.

The head of the conversion programme, Mohammad Farajani, said that out of the current \$4.25 million budget only \$100,000 had been given to farmers in loans, provoking the fury of the agricultural cooperatives.

They say just 50 farmers have received loans of around \$1,000 to \$2,000 at 13 per cent interest.

A deputy of the Shiite fundamentalist Hizbollah at the meeting said the group "supports the eradication of drugs cultivation but opposes the destruction of the people by reducing them to famine."

The Lebanese authorities backed by Syrian troops deployed in the eastern Bekaa Valley wiped out thousands of hectares (acres) of drug crops in 1992.

The growing and trafficking of drugs brought an estimated \$4 million into the country every year in the 1980s, experts say.

Meanwhile, police in Beirut seized more than 2.5 tonnes of hashish worth around \$1.25 million hidden in boxes of jam.

'Second-class medicines dumped in Third World'

By Rima Cprtbawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Of the numerous articles published on industrialised countries "dumping" their products in Third World countries, the one which appeared in the Feb. 18 issue of the Lancet journal was probably the most alarmingly convincing.

"The Lancet is one of the most reputable medical journals published in the U.K. It is totally unbiased in its primary objective of supplying perfectly accurate and reliable authentic first-hand medical information," says Abdul Rahim Malhas, former minister of health.

The article revolves around second-class drugs for the Third World, featuring surveys by organisations that are purposefully campaigning to "discourage" pharmaceutical companies in the developed world from exporting "inferior" drugs to developing countries.

The surveys indicate only partial success of the campaigns, which have resulted in an unsatisfactory drop in the percentage of defective drugs in 26 developing countries from 60 per cent in 1984 and 1988 down to 53 per cent in 1991/92. In 1984 and 1988, 12 per cent of the exports have been World Health Organisation (WHO) essential drugs and it has amounted to 16 per cent in the year 1991/92, according to the article.

Defective drugs, as termed "negative" in the article, are those that do not "meet criteria for efficacy, rational drug combination, adequate clinical testing, acceptable risk/benefit ratio, adequacy of dosage and dosage form."

The journal extract further illustrates varying, but nowhere near constructive, response to the campaigns on the part of all the drug companies concerned. It also reveals a difference in the percentage of "negative" drugs from one region of the developing world to another.

"The percentage of inferior drugs found obviously depends on how rigid and strict the rules of the countries concerned are," says Dr. Malhas.

Naturally for traders who handle such unorthodox dealings, the margin of profit is enormous, especially the selling price of effective drugs is very high in comparison with that of the "irrational combinations" that could be found in perfect counterfeit, according to Dr. Malhas.

"To developed countries it is a matter of immorality. But to the Third World countries, it is a matter of control. In the developed world no laws prohibit manufacturers from selling second-class materials if they can find a market for them anywhere abroad beyond the safe boundaries of that country," says Dr. Malhas.

Recent surveys outlined in the article also uncover extreme malpractices involving false marketing information about the function of some drugs, like the listing of a central stimulant as a means of weight reduction.

"It is important for Third World countries to be aware of such operations whose sole purpose is to achieve great profit quickly, even if it is done through unscrupulous means. And unfortunately these lucrative businesses have found growing markets in countries that lack protective regulations," Dr. Malhas says.

Of course the range of second-class products is innumerable, but when it comes to drugs, special awareness must be heightened due to the consumer inability to distinguish the genuine from the forged inferior and the significant health hazards involved in contracting imitations.

"When it comes to drugs, Third World countries had better be overcautious than very sorry," says Dr. Malhas.

Court ruling puts Turkey in a bind

By Michael Jensen

NICOSIA — Turkey's assault on Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq has heightened the importance of the landmark ruling made on Wednesday by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that Turkey was liable for human rights violations committed in areas outside its national territory where Turkey exercised "effective control."

The longer the Turkish army remains in northern Iraq and the more it imposes its "control" the more likely could it be that this ruling, following the precedent set by a case raised by a Cypriot citizen, could be applied to Turkish violations of the human rights of both Turkish and Iraqi Kurds.

A spokesman for the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan told this correspondent that a Kurdish human rights group based in London was examining the Cypriot case with a view to raising other cases on behalf of Kurdish victims of Turkey's current military campaign in northern Iraq.

The Cypriot case was lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights in 1989 by a Greek Cypriot refugee from Kyrenia, Mrs. Titina Loizidou, who complained that she had been refused access to family properties in northern Cyprus since the Turkish army occupied the area in 1974.

In March 1989 Mrs. Loizidou was arrested and briefly detained when she crossed the "green line," which divides the island, along with several thousand Greek Cypriot women of the "Women's Walk Home" movement who were seeking to return to their homes and lands.

The commission accepted Mrs. Loizidou's application in 1991 and it was subsequently referred to the court which gave this preliminary ruling before considering the substance of her complaint. The court voted 16 to two in her favour, declaring "invalid" Turkey's claim that the court could not take up complaints rising from activities outside Turkey's national territory.

The court rulings apply to the inhabitants of a territory of a party to the European convention on human rights but may also apply "when as a consequence of military action, whether lawful or unlawful, a contracting party exercises effective control of an area outside its national territory." The court also dismissed Turkey's argument that the case could not be considered because it arose before Ankara's acceptance of the court's jurisdiction in 1990.

The court is expected to decide on the substance of Mrs. Loizidou's complaint in October. If this ruling is also favourable the 160,000 Greek Cypriot refugees from the Turkish occupied northern breakaway state could raise a class action against Turkey.

Turkey's military occupation of Cyprus compounded by massive human rights violations at home and, now, in northern Iraq, are undermining Turkey's attempts to gain admission to the European Union. The March 6 agreement to admit Turkey to the European customs union, considered a first step in the direction of European Union (EU) membership, has been jeopardised by last week's invasion of Iraq, particularly because the Turks themselves have characterised this as the largest military campaign ever mounted by the Turkish army. A Kurdish spokesman for the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan said that this action was designed to "finish" the Kurds. Whatever its impact on the Kurds, it could also finish off Turkey's long-term ambitions to be accepted by the Europeans.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Le Prince Et La Sirène
17:30 Les Aventures de Tintin
18:00 D'Artagnan Amour
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
20:30 Diving in the Red Sea
21:00 South Beach
22:00 News in English
22:30 Sunset and Black
23:30 Feature film: "Judgement Day"

PRAYER TIMES
04:10 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Duha
11:41 Dhuhr
15:11 'Asr
17:55 Maghreb
19:13 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swella, Tel. 510740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Sable Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 625328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Lutheran Day School Tel. 624932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to rise gradually. Skies will be cloudy and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail, winds northerly active, and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3/14
Aqaba 10/22
Dajqa 2/17
Jordan Valley 9/20
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 10, Aqaba 19 Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 90 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
Dr. Fakhri Belaid 653412
Dr. Khalidun Asfour 699144
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul 714451
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 773536
Al Azzam pharmacy 677055
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsoun pharmacy 637660
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IBRD:
Dr. Mohammed Al Khaldi 273099
Alqada pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Fagih 906130
Khatif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue Police 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 653381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

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Hussein Medical Centre 513813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmouel 644714
Shmouel Hospital 649131
Al-Munster Hospital 645845
Al-Hamra, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ami, Abdali 664154/6
Al-Ami, Abdali 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983523
Zarqa National Hospital 983523
Don Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hilan Modern Hospital (09)990990
IBRD:
Princess Sumia Hospital (02)273535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafis Hospital (02)274700
AQABA:
Princess Heys Hospital (03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:20 Sana'a (Y)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:40 New Delhi (RJ)
09:55 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:45 Bangkok (RJ)
10:10 Colombo, India (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:30 Cairo (MS)
12:35 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Kuala Lumpur (MH)
14:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Kiev (SU)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
01:00 London, Beirut (BA)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:45 Beirut (RJ)
09:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:40 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
10:00 Frankfurt (LH)
12:30 Frankfurt (LH)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:30 Damascus (RJ)
13:55 Dubai, Moscow (PZ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)
06:15 Beirut (ME)
10:30 Aqaba (RJ)
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HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman: 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus
Dep. Damascus: 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman: 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman: 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in file per kg.
Apple 700/350
Banana 600
Banana (Malaysian) 600
Cabbage 90/50
Carrot 100/80
Cauliflower 220/140
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 150/100
Eggplant 150/80
Garlic 1200/600
Green beans 200/150
Lemon 300/250
Marrow (small) 160/80
Marrow (large) 240/140
Onion (green) 340/250
Onion (dry) 340/250
Orange 300/250
Peanut 540/480
Pepper (hot) 300/250
Pepper (sweet) 300/250
Potato 300/250
Spinach 170/100
String Beans 380/250
Tomato 320/250

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Tomato 320/250

ass medicine
Third World



HIS ROYAL Highness Prince Abdullah, briefed on measures taken by the national air carrier to improve its services and meet future developments. Also Sunday, the Regent visited the Royal Air Force Command and met with the Air Force chief of staff.

Workshop promotes Turkish commodities

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day workshop aiming to promote Turkish commodities in Jordan opened Sunday in Amman.

The workshop, organised by the Turkish embassy in Amman in cooperation with the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, also aims to study the possibility of launching Jordanian-Turkish joint ventures.

An exhibition of Turkish products and meetings between Jordanian and Turkish businessmen will be organised on the sidelines of the workshop, in which representatives of private sector establishments from both countries are participating.

In an opening address, federation President Haidar Murad stressed the important role of the private sector in increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

Mr. Murad said trade exchange between the two countries was still below expectations, noting that Jordanian imports from Turkey last year stood at \$91 million, while it exported to Turkey only \$15 million worth of commodities.

He said the investment climate in Jordan has improved and is witnessing a tendency towards activating the role of the private sector and updating and developing legislation to fit the new trends and attract foreign investments.

He called on Turkey to play an active role in the international economic summit which will be held in Amman in October and said he hoped that the summit will achieve promising results in promoting investment opportunities in Jordan.

President of the Turkish Industrial and Commercial Society Erol Yizar stressed the importance of the private sector in the world economy and the need to have laws protecting this sector.

Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Ali Iremceklik said in an address that Jordanian-Turkish commercial and economic ties were good, but that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries was well below expectations.

He said swift changes in the world require closer cooperation between Arab and Islamic countries and he said he hoped that the workshop will be the start for stronger trade and economic ties between Jordan and Turkey.

'Shobak agricultural centre to find fruit trees suitable to area'

SHOBAK (Petra) — The Shobak Regional Agricultural Research Centre has assigned 50 dunums of land to conduct research on fruit trees in order to determine which are most suitable to areas in South Jordan, centre Director Isma'il Tuweis said Sunday.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Tuweis said the centre is testing various types of apple, peach, apricot, cherry, and pear trees to select those most suitable and distribute them to Ministry of Agriculture stations and to farmers.

He said the services of the centre, one of six affiliated to the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT), cover the governorates of Maan, Aqaba and Tafelieh which make up 52 per cent of the Kingdom's total area.

He said these regions are popular apple tree planting areas where about 10,000 dunums are planted with about one million apple trees.

Mr. Tuweis said other areas in these governorates with an altitude of less than 800 metres above sea level are planted with olive trees, grapevines and vegetables.

The main agricultural projects in these southern governorates exist in the areas of Rum, Deseh, Suwayn and Mudawwara where many agricultural companies are planting field crops, vegetables, watermelons and almonds trees, said Mr. Tuweis, noting that other projects exist in Wadi Araba and Quweira.

The Shobak centre was established by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1988 and conducts research and tests in an area of 1,200 dunums.

It is located in a mountainous area rising 1,359 metres above sea level in the southern Jordanian desert, an area which receives an average 285 millimetres of rain annually.

Snow is common in winter in the area, and frost formation continues until the beginning of June.

The highest temperature recorded there was 36 degrees Celsius.

Mr. Tuweis said the station was used in the beginning to increase seed production. Then it was enlarged when it started to plant fruit trees, thus leading to the flourishing apple tree plantations there.

He said the station is currently used to conducting research on fertilisers, pruning, agricultural diseases and irrigation.

Mr. Tuweis said the centre planted 70 dunums of land with pistachios, noting that it is considered one of the largest areas in the Kingdom planted with such trees.

He said the main objective of the centre was to identify the best fruit and vegetable types fit for planting in South Jordan and the technologies needed to develop the agricultural sector in the area in addition to transferring agricultural technologies to farmers after testing them at the centre.

The centre also aims to define and tackle problems facing the agricultural sector, he added.

To achieve its objective, the centre cooperates with several local and international organisations.

Mr. Tuweis said these organisations are the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), the cooperative agricultural organisations, the Shobak Community College and social development societies in south Jordan.

Iraq rejects U.N. plan

(Continued from page 1)

United States was pursuing "a variety of diplomatic channels to ensure that they are released quickly." He did not elaborate.

He declined comment on a suggestion Saturday by Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, one of the Republican Party's most influential voices on foreign policy, that the United States should explore possible military options.

Asked whether the United States was considering military retaliation against Iraq, he replied: "I'm not going to comment on what the president does or does not consider with regard to that area."

Meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said "the new American draft (for Iraqi oil sales) just a manoeuvre to deceive international opinion and prolong the embargo," which the United Nations imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus wound up a mission here saying he had held "very business-like, serious and substantive" technical discussions with General Amer Rashid, head of Iraq's military industrialisation organisation.

Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. special mission on disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), was on a four-day mission to Baghdad aimed at filling the gaps in information on Iraq's germ warfare programme.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf Sunday insisted Baghdad had no biological weapons.

"We have no biological weapons. Ekeus and the Americans know Iraq has no military programme in that field," Mr. Sahaf told the Egyptian opposition daily Al Wafd.

Mr. Aziz said the latest U.N. draft resolution, drawn up by the United States, Britain and Argentina, was "just an attempt to delay the lifting of the blockade."

"It is stupid to think this draft would end or ease the suffering of the Iraqi people," Mr. Aziz told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

Two previous U.N. resolutions allowing Iraq to export \$1.6 billion worth of oil over six months were rejected by Baghdad as a violation of its sovereignty.

The sales were to be closely monitored by the United Nations and some of the proceeds were to go to U.N. operations in Iraq.

Mr. Aziz rejected claims that the draft resolution would increase the amount of money Iraq would have to spend on food and medicine.

He said it would only allow Baghdad to spend \$7 million on food for each of its 18 million citizens, "which is less than a quarter of the current value of the ration ticket."

"The only way to end the Iraqi people's suffering is to apply unconditionally paragraph 22 of Resolution 687," which calls for the complete lifting of oil sanctions once the U.N. ensures that its system for long-term monitoring of Iraqi weapons programmes is fully operational, Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat, said Sunday he had held several rounds of technical talks with Gen. Rashid and was to meet him again along with Mr. Aziz late Sunday.

He told AFP he would travel to Kuwait Monday "to get a feeling of the situation there... I will discuss security and other issues."

Mr. Ekeus failed in his last visit in February to obtain data on Iraq's biological weapons programme developed before the 1991 Gulf war, which the U.N. insists was offensive and Baghdad says was defensive.

He is to submit a report on UNSCOM's activities to the Security Council by April 10.

Third World Academy of Sciences, RSS award second annual prize to young Jordanian scientist

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Sunday awarded its annual prize for its young scientists competition to Nabil Qassem Hailat, supervisor of veterinary services at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The TWAS prize is awarded to one recipient in each country participating in the competition. The prize given to Dr. Hailat was the second to be awarded in Jordan since the Kingdom's participation in the programme two years ago.

Dr. Hailat's research on protein markers in cancer was selected among the works submitted by 39 other Jordanian scientists.

TWAS, which was established in 1983, and is based in Trieste, Italy, sees the competition as a means of identifying young talented scientists through the recognition of their abilities and therefore promoting their creativity, said TWAS Unit Coordinator at the Royal Scientific Society Majd Khayyat Talhoumi.

In 1992, TWAS invited the RSS to implement the award programme in Jordan.

The RSS, which enters its 25th year as the country's leading research and development institution, accepted the invitation as an opportunity to advance research efforts in the country and to encourage young scientists to pursue work which would ultimately serve the nation's development process, according to Mrs. Talhoumi.

The competition is open to Jordanian scientists, resident in Jordan and under the age of 40.

The announcement of the competition indicates which of the fields of pure science — chemistry, biology, mathematics and physics — the competition will be open to. The idea here, explained Mrs. Talhoumi, is to rotate the four fields each year.

Last year's winner, Hassan Abdullah Al Salah of Ma'ta University took the prize in chemistry.

With Dr. Hailat's winning work in biology this year, the competition for the coming two years will consider works in mathematics and physics, Mrs. Talhoumi said.

The work submitted can be an article, research paper or invention (with supporting documents) and must be written in English, she said.

It must also be original, that is, it cannot be extracted from the candidate's masters or Ph.D. theses, nor should it be work that was partially or fully submitted in any other competition which the candidate has won, Mrs. Talhoumi added.

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Winner of the Third World Academy of Sciences young scientists competition Nabil Qassem Hailat (right) Sunday discusses highlight of his prize-winning work with Royal Scientific Society Vice President Said Aloush (second right), the head of the competition evaluating committee and other researchers.

Applications are accepted until the end of October, 1995.

For his series of 17 papers on protein markers in cancer, Dr. Hailat was awarded the TWAS prize at a ceremony at the Royal Scientific Society presided over by RSS Vice President Said Aloush.

Dr. Hailat first studied veterinary medicine in Thessaloniki, Greece. He obtained his Ph.D. in pathology from Wayne State University in the U.S. and did two years of post doctoral work on proteins in cancer at the University of Michigan. He returned to Jordan in 1990 and began teaching at JUST's Veterinary Medicine Section.

TWAS competition jumped more than 60 per cent in the second year, from 24 applicants submitting 66 research works in 1993, to 39 applicants submitting 99 works in 1994 (including series works).

With the announcement today of the TWAS \$2,000 prize winner, the TWAS Unit at the RSS begins to put out its call for contestants for next year's prize.

Besides placing advertisements in the local Arabic and English dailies, the TWAS Unit notifies all universities, colleges, technical institutions and other scientific establishments as well as ministries and concerned government departments in a nation-wide effort to reach all potential applicants.

A panel of four to eight reviewers, selected by the RSS for their expertise in the pure sciences, is given a complete set of the written works with the author's names deleted to ensure total impartiality, Mrs. Talhoumi explained.

She noted that since the announcement of the first competition in Jordan in 1993, applicants to the

Al Watan publishes new political party weekly

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new party publication, Al Nida', issued last week, brought the total number of political party newspapers in the Kingdom to eight.

Al Nida' (the call) is the newspaper of Al Watan, a conservative right of centre party. The weekly obtained a licence to publish on Jan. 12, but the first issue appeared only last Wednesday.

liamentary elections, said that the decision to issue Al Nida' came after a lengthy period of consideration and in-depth analysis of party publications. He said he anticipated numerous difficulties, mainly the restraining laws "that have nothing to do with (democratic) changes in the Kingdom."

Inside pages focused on parliamentary life. Sensational news were absent, but cynical comments were evident.

One short anecdote under the headline of "Listening to lectures by force," told the story of a Sheikh who constantly gives religious lectures on public buses travelling from Zarqa to Amman.

"The passengers, whether they like it or not, have to listen to the sheikh's lectures that usually deal with ways to combat (Arab-Israeli) peace," the newspaper commented.

A full page was dedicated to an interview with Munther Masri, secretary general of the Ministry of Education, on the issue of cultural normalisation. The headline quoted Dr. Masri as saying that the change in school curriculum is in Jordan's interest more than it is in Israel's.

On the cultural page, Al Nida' published a long interview with Jamal Naji, who

ran for the Jordanian Writers Association last elections and lost his bid to Mu'nis Razzaz.

Another page was dedicated to investigative reporting, another to foreign issues and one to sports.

On the back, light and short items, half of them dedicated to celebrations of the publication's first issue, filled up to page.

The newspaper is expected to publish supplements on special issues.

Al Nida's managing editor, Samira Awad, said management was ready to publish all points of view. The paper, she said, cannot, however, be considered an opposition newspaper.

Al Nida' is printed at Al Ra'i printing press. Around



35 employees work at Al Nida'; 20 of them are reporters and writers. Most of them have experience in other Jordanian newspapers.

Ms. Awad said the management will try to attract some good writers who, otherwise, are not being afforded the opportunity to write in other established newspapers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- FILMS**
- ★ Film entitled "Raphael: the Apprentice Years, the Prince of Painters, Legend and Legacy" (Part III) (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Fann at 5:30 p.m.
 - ★ Film entitled "La Sentinelle" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- SECOND AMMAN DRAMA FESTIVAL**
- ★ Plays (in Arabic) entitled "Umm Al Khosr" and "The Eyes of Maria and Sindbad" respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION**
- ★ Round-table discussion entitled "La Paz En Oriente Medio" (Peace in the Middle East) at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) at 5:00 p.m.
- POETRY RECITAL**
- ★ Poetry recital by Ali Al Amiri at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00 p.m.
- PRESENTATION**
- ★ Presentation on enjoying literature by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.
- LECTURE**
- ★ Lecture entitled "Plants of the Bible" by Dr. Nigel Hopper at the Friends of Archaeology Center at 6:30 p.m.
- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hamed Chantout at the Balqa' Art Gallery, Fuhis.
 - ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Yousef Baddawi at Alla Art Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition of art by Ahmed Al Babili and Mohammad Ali at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
 - ★ Exhibition of books dealing with Arab and Islamic subjects at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
 - ★ Exhibition of abstract art by 'Alia' 'Amuouira and oil paintings by Salman 'Abbas at Orfali Art Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition of art by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre.

NMC, American Centre to introduce Mingo Saldivar in conjunto performance

AMMAN (J.T.) — For the first time in Jordan, the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with the American Centre, is organising an evening of conjunto music from Texas featuring accordionist and vocalist Mingo (Domingo) Saldivar and his band, Los Tremendos Cuatro Espadas, an NMC statement said.

The performance will be held on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

A Grammy nominated accordionist, Domingo Saldivar and his ensemble are one of the most progressive conjuntos in the United States, said the statement. Saldivar is considered one of the most innovative and versatile accordionists in Tejano conjunto history.

He is unmatched in his exuberant playing style and prolific songwriting abilities, the statement said.

A native of San Antonio, Saldivar's popularity as an accordionist and songwriter is the result of a dedicated and varied career as a musician.

At age 11, Saldivar already mastered the drums and guitar and was touring local dance halls playing tololoche (upright bass) with Los Chavalitos.

In 1957, Saldivar switched to the accordion, and became part of Los Guadalupanos, one of the earliest bands to feature two accordionists.

Saldivar joined the army in his 20s and found his talent and interest in country music which earned him performance at parties and celebra-



tions. He then began to transcribe popular country music by artists such as Hank Williams, Ferron Young and Buck Owen into Spanish and performed them with Los Guadalupanos, as the group's solo accordionist and chief songwriter.

With influences from rock and rhythm and blues (R&B), his accordion style featured rapid fingering, accented phrasing and extended melody lines.

Taking his cue from pop music performers, Saldivar's vibrant stage personality earned him the beloved title "The Dancing Cowboy."

In the mid 70s, Saldivar formed his current group, Los Tremendos Cuatro Espadas, which continues to be one of the most progressive conjuntos in South Texas. The band is comprised of Francisco Salzar on electric bass, Ramon Sanchez on string guitar, Carlos Torres on drums and Gary Lopez on harmonica.

Originally Latin music, conjunto music was born almost a century ago along the Texas-Mexican border. The art combines many European idioms such as Rancheras, Polkas, Cumbias, Waltzes and Schottisches. In Saldivar's music, however, country, R&B and rock and roll are tastefully combined with traditional conjunto rhythms. The conjunto tradition is both proudly preserved and gloriously embellished.

Japan closes in on sect with new evidence, charge

KAMIKU ISHIIKI, Japan (Agencies) — Police Sunday said they uncovered a chemical warehouse and laboratory at the complex of a doomsday cult linked to Tokyo's subway nerve gas attack and looked set to raid the site again Monday.

"We can't remove any more evidence this evening," a senior official told reporters. "But we plan to prepare it all for shipment early tomorrow morning."

Bad weather and nightfall caused police to halt the search of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) complex in the village of Kamiku Isshiki at the foot of Mt Fuji, 100 kilometres west of Tokyo.

Police were tight-lipped about details from Sunday's raid, which entered a new phase as authorities sought evidence to back up murder plot charges against the cult. One member of the 1,000-man police squad which carried out the raid was seen in the compound told reporters the underground bunker that was the focus of the day's raid was a warehouse. He also described an adjacent building that was searched.

"That (separate) building with pipes coming out of the side is some kind of laboratory," said the officer.

Observers at the com-

pound said they appeared poised for more extensive searches Monday.

"We could be here for quite a while," said the senior official who asked how long the searches would continue. Officers clad in heavy chemical warfare outfits carried sturdy, sealable vessels into the building they described as a laboratory replacing the cardboard boxes they had earlier prepared to remove as evidence.

New evidence from the compound included chemical samples matching ones taken from last Monday's subway attack and an unsolved nerve gas case last July, Kyodo News Agency said.

It said police laboratory analysis showed residue from the three samples — from the complex, the subway and the site of last July's attack — was methylphosphine acid diisopropyl and related substances.

The chemical compound is a by-product of the deadly nerve gas sarin, identified as the agent in the three cases. The analysis proved the same people produced the three samples using an identical method, Kyodo said. Chemical experts say sarin can be produced in a variety of ways.

A spokesman for Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department said he could not con-

firm the analysis reports.

The raids started Wednesday, two days after nerve gas attacks on Tokyo subway trains during the morning rush hour killed 10 people and injured 5,000.

Until Saturday, the raids were based on an abduction charge. Police said Sunday's new charge was "murder preparation" — used against anyone preparing weapons or poisonous materials with intent to murder.

The next step authorities could take would be identifying individual suspects against whom attempted murder charges could be filed if evidence warranted, legal experts said.

Police have made no formal charges against the sect over the Tokyo subway attack and Aum officials repeated denials of any involvement in the subway and other cases, charging that the sect itself was the target of nerve gas attack.

"A group affiliated with state authorities created this plot," said Yoshihiro Aoyama, Aum's attorney and a member of the sect, on TV Asahi's Sunday talk show.

Shoko Asahara, the bearded guru of the 10,000-member sect, has repeatedly denied his group had anything to do with the subway attack. Mr. Asahara alleged he and his followers were the

target of repeated sarin attacks by the U.S. military.

Mr. Asahara, 40, who has predicted the world will end in 1997 and claims he can levitate himself, says the chemicals at the site complex were used to make pottery. His whereabouts were not known.

A branch of the Japanese religious sect Aum Supreme Truth has been detected in southern Sri Lanka. The island newspaper said in Colombo Sunday.

The leader of the local branch located in the southern port city of Galle has been identified, the newspaper said, quoting informed sources. However, it did not give the name of the sect leader.

"Authorities were tight-lipped and unable to explain the presence of members of this organisation," the newspaper said.

Senior police officers in Galle said they were unaware of any sect branch in the region. "So far we have not heard anything from our intelligence division about this. But we will check," a senior police officer said.

The Aum Supreme Truth has been propagating a secret faith that is said to combine elements of Hinduism and Buddhism. Sri Lanka, like Japan, is a predominantly Buddhist nation.

Berlin climate conference has modest aims

BERLIN (R) — Some 160 countries gather Tuesday for a U.N. conference to find ways to stop the warming of the Earth's atmosphere and stave off what many scientists say is a looming climatic catastrophe.

But even before the \$16 million event begins, the meagre sum of measures taken so far and wrangling over the cost of action and how to share the load between rich and poor countries mean the chance of progress is slim.

The 11-day Berlin event, technically the first conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, brings together the states which at the 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio pledged to tackle the problem of global warming.

Industrial states vowed to cut their emissions of so-called "greenhouse gases" to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

The chief aim of the Berlin conference is to review progress toward this end and try to set goals into the next century and include commitments from developing countries.

"A successful conclusion will be no easy task in view of countries' different national interests and economic positions," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said.

"But we have no alternative, because environmental destruction and climate change know no borders. We can together ensure this planet continues to be worth living on, or individually help to make it uninhabitable."

American make up six per cent of the 18,000 foreign tourists who flock annually to the city, the seat of the country's last imperial dynasty from 1802 to 1945.



Filipino maid Flor Contemplacion's coffin is carried to church amid a surging crowd prior to her burial. Ms. Contemplacion, 42, a mother of four, was hanged in Singapore last March 17 for a double murder. Her death has inflamed national anger in the Philippines and seriously damaged Manila's ties with Singapore because of a popular belief that she was innocent. Singapore has said evidence against her was strong (AFP photo)

Executed Filipina gets martyr's funeral

SAN PABLO, Philippines (R) — A mother of four hanged in Singapore after confessing to two murders received a martyr's funeral Sunday, hailed as a symbol of ahimsa Filipino migrant workers worldwide.

About 40,000 people lined the streets of San Pablo, the home town of 42-year-old maid Flor Contemplacion, who was executed in Singapore's Changi Jail on March 17 for the 1991 killings despite impassioned Philippine pleas for a postponement.

"She is a symbol of millions of Filipinos driven by poverty to take their chances abroad," Roman Catholic Bishop Teodoro Bacani said at a requiem mass in the town's crowded cathedral.

"Their lot is pathetic. Their own government neglects them," he added, evoking applause from the congregation.

The poor South East Asian nation is heavily dependent on the more than \$2 billion sent home annually by an estimated three million Filipinos, mostly women, who work overseas.

Employed as housemaids or hotel workers from the Gulf to the islands of the South Pacific, they complain of frequent abuse such as beatings, rape and official harassment.

They also complain that although the government hails them as national heroes for their contribution to the economy, it does nothing to help them when they need it.

Earlier Sunday two grenades exploded outside the Foreign Ministry and a Singapore Airlines office in Manila. No casualties were reported and there was only minor damage.

The leftist Alex Boncayo Brigade (ABB) claimed responsibility for the blasts and warned of further action. It said in a statement: "This signals the beginning of the ABB's hunt for those responsible for the death of Flor and other OCWS (Overseas Contract Workers) in similar predicaments."

The ABB has said it would impose what it called "revolutionary justice" — its usual term for death — on Philippine officials and Singaporeans it says are to blame for Ms. Contemplacion's execution.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement, deplored the bombing and urged people to heed President Fidel Ramos's call for "sobriety and objectivity during this critical time."

Bishop Bacani, speaking at the funeral, acknowledged international puzzlement over the intensity of the Philippines' reaction to the execution, which has led to a diplomatic rift with Singapore. But Singapore's refusal to postpone the hanging was inhuman, he said. "All we were asking for was a stay of her execution for a few days."

Many Filipinos believe Ms. Contemplacion was innocent of killing another Filipina maid and a three-year-old Singaporean boy in 1991. They point to the allegation of another Filipina maid who came forward four years after the murders to say that Ms. Contemplacion had been framed.

They also complain the Philippine government did not do enough for the dead woman. Philippine diplomats say they visited her regularly and she never recanted her confession.

"I would like to thank the Filipino people who have joined us in our fight for justice. Let us continue the struggle for justice for my mother," Ms. Contemplacion's 17-year-old daughter, Russell, said at the mass. She spoke before her mother's open, white metal coffin.

Squatter camp schoolgirl becomes millionaire

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A schoolgirl from a squatter camp near the south coast city of Port Elizabeth Saturday became an instant millionaire when she won a slot machine jackpot, hotel group Sun International said. In a statement, the group said the schoolgirl, whom they did not name, won the Million Mania jackpot at Sun International's Amatola Sun Hotel at Bisho, 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Port Elizabeth. The girl spent 22.5 rand (\$6.25) and won 1,026,956 rand (\$285,262), the statement said. It added that the girl planned to use the money to build a house for her parents, who are extremely poor, and to fund her studies.

Panda saved by blood donation from two bears

BEIJING (AFP) — The only giant panda in the world to be born and raised in captivity has escaped death thanks to a blood transfusion from two black bears. Young Liang (Always Bright), two years and four months old, was found to be highly anemic Feb. 14 and needed an urgent blood transfusion, the official Chinese News Agency, Xinhua, said Sunday. But veterinarians at the Beijing Zoo were unable to give it a sufficient amount of panda blood in an injection because the beginning of the Chinese lunar year is the reproductive period for these mammals, which are close to becoming extinct. Experts turned instead to the black bears, which are close relatives. The next day, 600 millilitre (18 fluid ounces) of red blood cells were taken from two of the bears, the agency said. The young panda immediately started to recover and its health is almost back to normal, Xinhua said.

Loud Chinese city fines noisy residents

BEIJING (R) — China's cacophonous southern boomtown Guangzhou has cracked down on noisy residents, fining 27 work units a total of 120,000 yuan (\$14,400) for noise pollution, the China Daily said Saturday. People almost everywhere in the city, an economic powerhouse with innumerable construction sites, dance halls and traffic-clogged roads, face noise levels above 50 decibels — similar to standing next to an air-conditioner. A karaoke bar and Pepsico's Guangzhou branch were among the 27 units fined a total of 120,000 yuan for emitting more than 70 decibels of noise, the newspaper said. More than 60 other units were warned to reduce their noise emissions, it said.

3 London girls guilty of robbing model Hurley

LONDON (R) — Three teenage girls accused of robbing British model Elizabeth Hurley, the new face of Estee Lauder cosmetics, were found guilty. The three had denied robbing Hurley of £10 (\$16) at knife-point on a quiet, elegant street in London's South Kensington district last November. A fourth pleaded guilty. Judge Gerald Butler, who adjourned the case until April 12 for sentencing, said: "I have in mind a custodial sentence." The jury at Southwark Crown Court in South London took just one hour to reach their decision. Hurley, 29, whose actor boyfriend Hugh Grant starred in the low-budget hit film Four Weddings and A Funeral, flew in from New York earlier this week to testify at the trial. The model, who shot to fame wearing a revealing dress held together with safety pins at the premiere of Grant's film, told the court that one of the girls had held a knife "about an inch from my stomach." The actress, who recently signed a modelling contract with Estee Lauder reported to be worth £3 million (\$4.7 million), said she gave her assailants £10 (about \$16). "They sort of sneered and said that's not enough. They said something like 'we can't get some big mags with that' and said 'give us your purse'," she told the court. She escaped from her attackers when she ran into a passing van driver.



This March 29, 1975 photo shows Northern Vietnamese troops entering Da Nang City. Northern forces took over Hue, the capital of the last imperial dynasty to rule Vietnam, March 16, 1975 and then the city of Da Nang three days later, an even bigger victory over the southern Vietnamese and the Americans. Saigon fell to the Communists one month later. Hue and Da Nang are celebrating the 20th anniversary of these victories this weekend (AFP photo)

Former Vietnam imperial capital marks anniversary of Communist victory

HUE, Vietnam (AFP) — Vietnam's greatest war hero Sunday presided over celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of Hue to the Communists, as veterans of the battle shrugged off the bitterness of the past.

General Vo Nguyen Giap, 83, who masterminded the Communist victory over the French and Americans in this former imperial capital, watched as 1,000 Bo Doi, or North Vietnamese foot soldiers, marched through the city.

The parade was the culmination of the weekend's festivities commemorating one of the last major battles of the Vietnam War, which ended just over a month later on April 30, 1975 with the fall of Saigon and the U.S. pull-out from the country.

Other events to mark the anniversary included a giant fireworks display Saturday night over the Perfume Riv-

er, or Song Huong, which runs through the city. Four districts of Hue were declared "Heroes of the Popular Armed Forces" for acts of courage by the population during the conflict. Senior national leaders attended the ceremony at the city theatre.

The city fell on March 25, while the whole province came under Communist control the following day after a week of heavy fighting between three North Vietnamese battalions and southern troops.

But amid the celebrations of the communists' triumphant entry into the ancient city, which has become one of Vietnam's top tourist centres, local veterans of the conflict are turning their backs on the bitter enmity which once divided them and their U.S. foes.

Tran Quoc Thanh, now

head of the city's tourism department, acted as guide to a Bo Doi unit during the battle against the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese troops.

He remembers the offensive vividly, but today says he harbours no resentment against the Americans, despite their long-running involvement in the war which divided Vietnam.

"I can now open my arms to welcome everyone here," he said. As if to push home the point, the U.S. soft-drinks giant Pepsi Cola Saturday sponsored a boat race on the Perfume River, dotting its advertising slogans across Hue among the red banners of the Communist Party.

Americans make up six per cent of the 18,000 foreign tourists who flock annually to the city, the seat of the country's last imperial dynasty from 1802 to 1945.

Bardot to join animal transport protest

BRUSSELS (R) — Former French screen star Brigitte Bardot is set to join a protest Monday against long distance transport of farm animals in the European Union (EU), campaigners said.

The 60-year-old actress will be among several hundred demonstrators outside a two-day meeting of EU farm ministers, due to discuss the emotive issue of trucking animals across the continent for slaughter.

Bardot, who has devoted herself to animal welfare since making her last film in 1973, joined a similar street protest in Brussels at the ministers' last meeting in February.

Dressed in black and with flowers in her hair, she climbed onto a lorry to join protestors dressed as sheep. A week later she loudly denounced French Agriculture Minister Jean Puech as a coward for failing to fight for curbs on animal transport.

At this week's meeting,

ministers are due to review a French compromise to break a 20-month deadlock over maximum journey times between northern livestock exporting and southern importing countries.

"An eight hour limit is an absolutely minimum measure," said Michel Vandenhoeck of Brussels-based Global Action in the Interest of Animals (GALA), one of the protest organisers.

Mr. Vandenhoeck said he expected a much bigger protest than that at last month's EU Farm Council.

"We must keep up the pressure... the EU cannot delay eternally," he said, adding the failure of farm ministers to agree protective measures was prolonging the suffering of millions of farm animals.

"Crammed by hundreds into lorries: exhausted, hungry, thirsty, ill, they often die with terrible suffering in slaughterhouses," GALA and co-organiser Animals In Peril

said in a joint statement.

EU officials said that with positions of member states unchanged and in the absence of a new initiative from the French EU presidency there was little prospect of making much progress when the issue is discussed Tuesday.

"There's no sign of a breakthrough... the discussion could be short," said an official from a northern member state.

But it will enable the council to assess the situation and maintain momentum to get a decision, another said.

Germany, Britain, Sweden and other northern member states want an agreement before France hands over the EU presidency to Spain on July 1.

Southern member states say stricter transport measures would raise costs, make imports of live animals uneconomic and result in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

Burma cuts prisoners' sentences to mark army day

RANGOON (Agencies) — Burma's military government said it has cut by one-third the sentences of more than 23,000 prisoners in honour of the 50th celebration of Armed Forces Day, official media reported Sunday.

The New Light Of Myanmar newspaper said the minister of home affairs, Lieotaoat-General Mya Thim, issued a decree reducing the sentences of inmates who have worked on projects that were completed in time for the celebration Monday.

"As a gesture hailing the golden jubilee Armed Forces Day, one-third of their sentences... has been reduced," the order said, without adding whether this meant that any of the prisoners would walk free.

But state-run newspapers, television and radio made no mention of any leniency towards Aung San Suu Kyi, a co-founder of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) who has been under house arrest in Rangoon since July 1989.

There have been renewed rumours in diplomatic circles and among residents of Rangoon that Mr. Suu Kyi may be set free soon.

Top officials of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) have been busy cutting ribbons and inaugurating a highway, several bridges, a beach resort and television channel — all to be ready in time for Monday.

Armed Forces Day marks the anniversary of the date in 1945 when the Burmese rose to end Japan's World War II occupation.

Burma officially has no political prisoners, although dissidents, diplomats and human rights groups abroad say several thousand people are in jail for political offences.

On March 15, the government announced the release of 31 prisoners, including leading dissidents Tin Oo and Kyi Maung.

Diplomats described them as the two most prominent opposition figures to be set free since the house arrest of

former Prime Minister U Nu was lifted in April 1992.

Former Defence Minister Tin Oo, 68, was a co-founder with Mr. Suu Kyi of the NLD in 1988 and became its first chairman. He was arrested with her in July 1989 and imprisoned on a charge of stirring discord.

Mr. Kyi Maung, 76, a former colonel, led the NLD to an overwhelming election victory in 1990 but the SLORC, the ruling body of the Burmese Armed Forces, ignored the result and has retained power ever since.

Their release could mean a revival of the dialogue started between the SLORC and Mr. Suu Kyi last September which apparently has stalled since October, diplomats said.

Ms. Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burmese independence hero General Aung San, has said she wants her release to be unconditional and that she will make no secret deals with the generals to win her freedom.

Meanwhile, troops of the Burmese military junta suffered nearly 100 casualties in a battle against optimum warlord Khun Sa's Maung Tai Army (MTA), a Thai military-run television channel said Saturday.

Thirty-two Burmese troops were killed and 60 others wounded in a two-and-a-half-hour clash Friday with the MTA at Ban Pang Ko in the east of the country, about 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Thai border, Channel 7 said.

Khun Sa lost six men, the station said, without providing any numbers of personnel from the fight.

The station also said that Rangoon troops and the MTA had clashed against early Saturday in a battle lasting three hours at Ban Pang Pak Kud, about 20 kilometres from Thailand's Mae Sai district. No casualty figures from the incident were however available.

Squatter camp schoolgirl becomes millionaire

ROMANESBURG — A schoolgirl from a squatter camp near Johannesburg became a millionaire when she won a national lottery.

Panda saved by blood donation from two bears

CHINA — A giant panda was saved from two bears by a blood donation from a human.

World News



Queen's visit concentrated on S. African blacks

JURBAN, South Africa (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II turned home Sunday from a state visit to South Africa which focused on the black majority in a country struggling to redress the imbalances of apartheid.

The tour "has been one of the outstanding experiences of my life," she told wazulu-Natal premier Mark Mdlalose Saturday, the final day of her six-day visit.

In sharp contrast to the white crowds that greeted her last visit in 1947 with parents King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and sister Princess Margaret, the 48-year-old queen was very much on the black realities of post-apartheid South Africa.

She visited township and slum areas in six impoverished black townships around Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg and Durban to see the other side of South Africa.

But her only views of the dilapidated waterless and squalid shacks which are home to millions of blacks were a quick drive or walk past, to the disappointment of some township dwellers.

In the sprawling Soweto township southwest of Johannesburg, she also unveiled the first memorial in South Africa to 607 black servicemen who died when their ship sank in the English Channel on their way to France and World War I in 1917.

The only other memorial to the men had been at the southern English port of Southampton, near where their ship the *Mendi* sank in icy, fog-shrouded Channel waters.

Black war veterans also met the queen and Prince Philip during the ceremony in Soweto's Avalon Cemetery — again a contrast to the 1947 visit when black servicemen were kept well away from the royal visitors.

One of the highlights of the visit came in Port Elizabeth, which was included on the tour after hard lobbying by the government of Eastern Cape Province, one of the poorest in the nation.

Police said more than 100,000 people turned out to greet her in New Brighton township and other parts of the Indian Ocean city in a welcome royal officials said was one of the outstanding moments of her 43-year reign.

The queen also came as head of the Commonwealth, and she marked South Africa's return to the 51-nation community of former British imperial possessions with a gala banquet in Pretoria for Commonwealth diplomats and representatives.

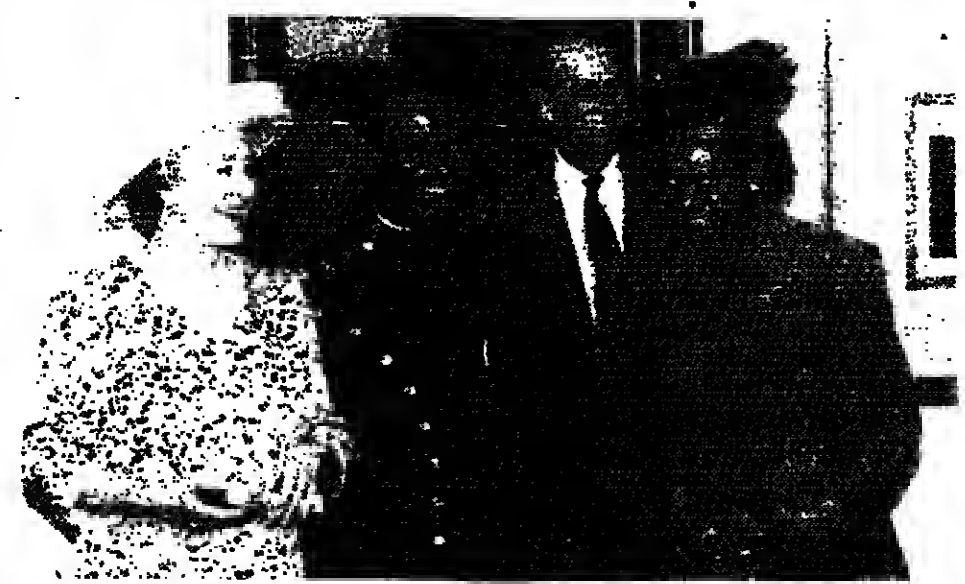
This set the seal on South Africa's return to the community it quit in 1961 under international pressure over its apartheid policies.

President Nelson Mandela, who came to power after the country's historic all-race elections last April ended centuries of white minority rule, described the royal visit as one of the unforgettable moments in South Africa's history.

He was quoted as saying "the visit served to cement and underpin South Africa's return to democracy."

The queen praised South Africa's "great act of reconciliation and rebuilding" and pledged: "We wish to play our full part in support of your efforts to bring basic services to all, and to create a climate from which violence and fear are absent, through a substantial programme of assistance."

The visit was also a trip down memory lane for a woman who last visited the country as a young princess, and where she celebrated her 21st birthday while already secretly engaged to Prince Philip, who she married later in 1947.



British Queen Elizabeth II, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and his wife the Duke of Edinburgh (back), share a joke during a photo-call, after a ceremonial luncheon in Durban (AFP photo)



South African President Nelson Mandela smiles as Britain's Queen Elizabeth II waves goodbye to the people of Durban at the end of her six-day official visit, the first since 1947. During the day she was given a stuffed lioness and a prize bull (AFP photo)

Commonwealth diplomats and representatives.

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Chechenya frontline village braces for war as talks fail

TSOTSIN YURT, Russia (AFP) — Talks between Russian and Chechen commanders at the frontline village of Tsotsin Yurt proved fruitless Sunday and a new battle seemed inevitable.

"We agreed to meet again and not to shoot at each other now, but they'll attack anyway. They're soldiers, they've been ordered to," said Hussiyov, a 32-year-old fighter at the talks.

"They could attack at any time, right now. We know that," he said.

The refugee-swollen village lies between the two main Chechen strongholds of Shali and Gudermes, but hopes that it might escape the war were dashed after the fourth fruitless round of talks.

The Chechen fighters in the town say there is no way they can surrender their weapons, as the Russians are asking.

Russian tanks are dug in just 200 metres across a field from the Chechen frontlines. More reinforcements were brought up overnight, Mr. Hussiyov said.

"They warned us they have all the latest weapons, electronics and special rockets. They would already be shooting now if there hadn't been these talks. We're both buying time," said Ali Mussayev, 35, the local deputy commander.

Mr. Mussayev estimated there were between 25,000 and 40,000 people in the tiny village, many of them having fled before the Russian advance.

"Of course the Russians know all these people are here. They say we have to follow orders, a soldier follows orders," he said.

"They absolutely don't want to fight. They want to go home," Mr. Hussiyov said. "No one wants to fight."

The village's hospital has already evacuated and a major hospital in nearby Kurchaloi has begun to pull out

to facilities in the Caucasus Mountains.

"We must prepare for the worst and keep getting ready for an evacuation," said Francois Calas, from the international humanitarian aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

The first group of wounded have already been moved to the mountains, he said.

As the fighting moves south and the Chechens retreat, town by town, the medical situation has become acute. Hospitals have been hit, destroyed or forced to evacuate by Russian shelling and bombing.

The crowded and dirty conditions that thousands of civilians are living in has added the threat of epidemics, such as cholera and diphtheria, to the gruesome body count of the war.

MSF, which works around the clock to provide the sparsely equipped hospitals with expertise and medicines, has also been hampered by the Russian authorities, Mr. Calas said.

Russian army posts have been ordered not to allow more than small amounts of media into the Chechen-separatist controlled part of the country.

"We have a lot of stocks in Nazrao (just outside Chechenya). Probably 50 per cent of stocks are there. We can take it to Grozny, but not to the south," Mr. Calas said.

Russian checkpoints were ordered by headquarters not to allow MSF lorries through, only their jeep-sized cars, Mr. Calas said.

He said Chechen authorities were not ready to handle any epidemics and that there would be difficult long-term physical and mental rehabilitation for people who live through the war.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev declared his republic independent from the Russian Federation in 1991, after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Russian forces poured into the tiny

Muslim republic in the Caucasus on Dec. 11 last year to restore rule.

Chechen separatist forces will make a major defence of Shali against the Russian army and only agree to negotiate if the Russians withdraw, said rebel Commander Aslan Maskhadov Sunday.

"Shall we be going to really defend," Mr. Maskhadov told AFP.

If forced to nearby mountains, his meo will make the war a "nightmare" for the Russians, he added.

Speaking just before the start of a major Russian helicopter and artillery attack on the centre of Shali, Mr. Maskhadov said Chechen independence fighters would only negotiate if Russia pulled out totally.

The Chechen separatists have declared Shali their capital since Russian forces took control of the breakaway republic's main city, Grozny.

But Mr. Maskhadov added that the question of Chechenya's independence from the Russian Federation, which Moscow is fighting to end, was open to discussion.

"We are not talking about that yet. We're simply asking to sit down at the table and talk — after a complete withdrawal of Russian troops," he said.

"We would then sit down and solve the independence question. There are many possibilities, like elections and referendums, as long as the people are allowed to decide."

But at present the Russians were "holding a gun to our head," he said.

Early Sunday morning, Russian artillery opened up a fierce barrage on central Shali and helicopters circled the town firing machine guns.

Mr. Maskhadov and his bodyguards left quickly in a small Lada car with black-tinted windows, and Chechen fighters fired back at the helicopters with heavy

machineguns.

The shelling appeared to be across several residential neighbourhoods, with projectiles whistling overhead and debris flying across back streets. Cars drove at high speed and those on foot had to move quickly to find cover.

The barrage ended a brief lull after a night of heavy artillery and multiple rocket duels between Chechen fighters dug in around Shali and Russian troops positioned in a close semi-circle to the west and east.

Despite Russian gains last week, notably taking the town of Argovo after shelling it for three months, Mr. Maskhadov said his army was far from a spent force.

"We could have stayed in Argovo for another month, fighting neighbourhood by neighbourhood like in Grozny, but it had no significance to us anymore," he said.

"The Russians want to take Shali and Gudermes and push us into the mountains. Then they will say they've won the war and we're just bandits in the hills," he said.

"I just wanted to show that I am ready to fight a real war, army against army, position against position. ... If we go to the mountains, then it will be a nightmare for the Russians," he said. "The mountains will be our kind of war."

Mr. Maskhadov said he had met with President Dzhokhar Dudayev Saturday and that the separatist leader was well and "not far from" Shali.

A few civilians remain in Shali, mostly those with nowhere to go.

Dadal Magomadovich, a 57-year-old man with a bright red face, gold teeth and a fur hat, emerged from his house on back street and said: "I'm guarding my house. I served for four years in the Soviet army and never expected my former comrades to do this."

He said nothing could make him leave Shali.

Thousands more Hutus fleeing Burundi capital

BUJUMBURA (R) — Thousands of Hutus fled townships near Burundi's capital Bujumbura Sunday in a fresh exodus towards nearby Zaire's frontier, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

"Our teams reported people leaving Kamege and Kinama in large numbers, thousands. This is worrying," said ICRC chief delegate Marjolaine Martin in Bujumbura.

Tens of thousands of Hutus fled the city Friday after Tutsi militiamen rampaged on a night of arson, shooting and grenade explosions that left up to several hundred dead. Many of them flooded down the road west of Bujumbura towards Zaire.

Serious clashes have not yet broken out in Kamege but some fear the township could be the next Tutsi target.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Nairobi

says only 15,000 people have fled the city since the night of violence.

The fighting between Burundi's two ethnic groups has provoked fears that the Central African country will go the same way as its northern neighbour Rwanda, where up to one million people, most of them Tutsis, were slaughtered last year.

The streets of Burundi's capital Bujumbura were deserted except for military patrols Sunday.

"This is a war zone. You cannot enter here," one Tutsi soldier told reporters trying to get into the hit suburb of Buyenzi. Tutsi gangs turned reporters away from Buiza suburb.

A single corpse lay in the road in Buyenzi where dozens were strewn about Saturday after heavy clashes Friday in which witnesses said up to 500 were killed.

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Fighting threatens to bury Bosnia truce

SARAJEVO (AFP) — A week of heavy fighting has left Bosnia government forces in control of several strategic heights, but threatens to bury the four-month ceasefire due to expire in five weeks.

Meanwhile, Serb forces are retreating by shelling towns, including U.N.-declared safe areas.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) officials here said government forces, who went on the offensive last Monday, have seized two vital telecommunications relay towers, a serious blow to the Serbs' command-and-control military capacity.

Muslim-led troops seized a television tower in central Bosnia, capturing the 1,933 metre-high Paljenik peak in the Vlasice range, UNPROFOR officials said.

Government forces are also believed to have taken Stokice, another peak used for television and military transmissions, just east of Tuzla, in the northeast of the country.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic appeared to confirm government gains by calling Saturday for immediate peace talks and a return by Bosnian forces to the lines they held before an initial ceasefire accord was agreed on Dec. 24.

"In their most recent offensives, the Muslim side has engaged in a major war which will not be ended by the ceasefires the international community calls for each time the Muslims are threatened with defeat," Mr. Karadzic warned.

The government side has defended its actions by claiming the latest attacks are meant to release pressure on its troops under attack by Serb coalition forces in the northwest Bihać enclave.

It has also told UNPROFOR that its current military objectives were "very limited," a suggestion of initial moves ahead of a future large-scale operation rather than the actual start of the long-expected spring offensive.

Experts warn of new Chernobyl peril

LONDON (R) — Western scientists have warned that a second catastrophic explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine could happen at any time, the Observer newspaper said Sunday.

The British weekly said it obtained a report, suppressed by European Commission officials, which contained the warning about Chernobyl, site of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986.

"In a secret report... they say pillars supporting the damaged reactor building are in imminent danger of bursting," the Observer said.

"Their collapse could send debris crashing through the concrete sarcophagus built round the irradiated, burnt-out remains of Chernobyl's Reactor Number 4 or rubble would plunge into Reactor 3 immediately next to it, which

is still fully operational, triggering another core meltdown."

The newspaper said the report was being suppressed by European Commission officials battling with Ukrainian politicians over the site's future and price-tag of a cleanup.

Western governments and the scientists say the whole plant should be shut down immediately. But Ukrainian officials are refusing until Western cash and expertise are available to help build replacements.

"It's a scandal that this is being shrouded in secrecy when the safety of Europe's public is at risk," a source near the investigation told the Observer.

An explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in 1986 contaminated much of the continent. Medical experts

say the disaster has caused an increase in the number of cases of cancer in children and physical deformities.

Fire and the blast in Chernobyl's fourth reactor spewed radiation over most of Europe and Ukrainian officials say 8,000 people have since died as a result.

The plant's second reactor was closed after a fire in 1991.

President Leonid Kuchma said earlier this month the world community had to work out how to close down Chernobyl but had to take account of Ukraine's economic troubles.

In Paris last week the World Bank said rich nations should offer enough cash to plug a hole in Ukraine's funding needs for this year, but the European Union was holding out for a deal on closing down Chernobyl.

Bhutto lauds Hillary as role model for women

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto described U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton here Sunday as a "symbol" for women throughout the world.

At a luncheon for the U.S. president's wife, Ms. Bhutto raised Mrs. Clinton's role or the cause of women, children and education, saying "I'm utterly fascinated by Hillary Clinton's efforts to redefine the role of women in the United States."

"You are a symbol for all women in east and west," she said comparing Hillary Clinton with Eleanor Roosevelt.

In her brief remarks the U.S. first lady described Ms. Bhutto's leadership as "a beacon for all of us."

She said "women are breaking new ground, availing new opportunities" everywhere in the world.

Hillary Clinton flew to Islamabad late Saturday on the first leg of her two-week South Asian tour that will also take her to India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

She was received by Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari.

In her arrival statement she said "our nations have enjoyed a long friendship and shared interests, and for that reason I am pleased to begin my visit to South Asia from here in Pakistan."

The purpose of her visit is to gain first-hand knowledge of development activities in the region, which comprises

one fifth of the world's population, officials said.

"Two weeks is far too brief a time to absorb the full richness and vitality of this region of the world," she said. But she hoped her visit will help Americans and South Asians gain "a greater appreciation of the opportunities and challenges that join us as a global family."

"In Pakistan I look forward to seeing new places and making new friends, and also to learning more about the rich, dynamic history and traditions that you have lost the world," she said.

The visit is the first in more than three decades by a U.S. first lady since Jacqueline Kennedy came to Pakistan in March 1962, officials here

said.

Mrs. Clinton, who is accompanied by daughter Chelsea and a 15-member delegation, later went to see Saudi-funded Faisal Mosque.

On Monday she will leave for the historic city of Lahore known as the country's cultural capital.

Meanwhile Pakistani police said Sunday they have arrested two more men with alleged links to Ramzi Yousef, the man charged with the 1993 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre.

Prime Minister Bhutto has ordered a crackdown against suspected terrorists, and police have arrested more than 10 men in the past month.

Mrs. Mandela 'on her way out' of government

WEEENEN, South Africa (R) — A South African newspaper reported Sunday that Winnie Mandela may already have been fired from the government but her estranged husband President Nelson Mandela declined to comment.

The Sunday Tribune quoted unnamed sources in the ruling African National Congress (ANC) as saying Deputy President Thabo Mbeki had already told Mrs. Mandela of her dismissal as deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology and would make a public announcement this week.

"Reports from well-placed sources inside the ANC indicate that Winnie Mandela may already have been fired from the government of national unity," the paper reported.

Asked about the report, President Mandela said it was

better to leave the matter in the hands of Mr. Mbeki.

"He has been handling this matter," the president told reporters at a public meeting in the town of Weenen in KwaZulu-Natal province.

"I don't think it would be correct for me to express my views on this matter. I have put it in his (Mbeki's) hands," Mr. Mbeki could not be reached for comment.

Local newspapers reported last week that the president had decided to fire Mrs. Maadela once Britain's Queen Elizabeth had ended her state visit to South Africa. The queen left Saturday night.

The reports said she would be dismissed because she travelled to West Africa in February in defiance of a government order that she should remain in South Africa.

While she was away, police raided her home and offices in search of evidence to support allegations that she had used her government post to obtain housing contracts for a construction firm in which she has an interest.

Mrs. Mandela, who has a long history of controversy, told an ANC function Saturday night that the row over her trip to West Africa was the result of breakdown in communications.

"I had no intention to defy the president. I went there in the service of my country," she said, making no direct reference to the reports of her imminent dismissal.

She criticised the government in her speech for hosting an expensive visit by the queen while many South Africans still had no adequate housing, running water or electricity one year after the ANC had come to power.

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Yeltsin heads towards polls with 2-week train trip

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin embarks Monday on a two-week train journey through Russia that carries all the hallmarks of a whistle-stop tour aimed at winning support for the coming year of elections.

Mr. Yeltsin will officially be leaving on a "working vacation" Monday when he boards the train to Ryazan, the first stop on the trip across Russia to the resort town of Sochi on the Black Sea.

"It's a normal vacation, or an electoral campaign trip," the president's new spokesman Sergei Medvedev told reporters.

But few doubt that the real purpose of Mr. Yeltsin's train journey is to seek support ahead of parliamentary elections set for December and a presidential poll due to be held in June 1996.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose rating in opinion polls has plunged to a record low of seven per cent since the war in Chechenya began, is using the trip to project an image of openness to Russians who

will follow his journey on the television news.

Newspapers say shabby towns along Mr. Yeltsin's route are being hastily spruced up in the grand Russian tradition of the "Potemkin villages" prettified for Catherine the Great when she traveled away along the Volga in the 18th century.

"Yeltsin will be shown a 'Little Switzerland' along the route to Ryazan," the popular newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomolets* said.

It said buildings, posts and fences had been repainted, garbage heaps incinerated and anti-Yeltsin graffiti washed away along the 200-kilometre (120-mile) stretch of rail to Ryazan.

Mr. Yeltsin has not yet said whether he intends to run for the presidency next year, but his loss of popularity has upset his supporters among "democrats" who fear they may not even get a candidate into the second round of voting in June.

The president, whose military intervention in

Chechenya in December has proved highly unpopular, has suffered a series of other setbacks lately.

The launch of a new television network to be run by eight financial and industrial groups allied with Mr. Yeltsin has been one of the rocks since the March 1 murder of the man who was to head it, the television star Vladimir Listyev.

The State Duma, the lower house of parliament, meanwhile, has just passed a law opposed by Mr. Yeltsin that retains proportional voting for half the 450 Duma seats to be filled in December — a step that will give a significant boost to the ultra-nationalists of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Presidential aides are reportedly considering postponing the elections by two years, but such a move would have the effect of an atomic bomb.

"A delay of this sort would set off a very powerful wave of protest, creating the risk of

nearly uncontrollable agitation," a Western diplomat said.

The Only positive development for the president's team has been a drop in the rate of inflation to 11 per cent in February and a reported resumption of industrial production after years of decline.

Mr. Yeltsin made the most of the good news when the leaders of Russia's 21 republics came to Moscow last week for talks, launching a presidential "charm offensive" with the elections in mind. He is likely to continue with this.

"Boris Yeltsin has turned to the issue of reforming relations between the centre and the regions and republics every time his affairs in Moscow have hit a bad spell," the commentator Sergei Pavkhomenko wrote in the daily *Sovodnya*.

"It is therefore clearly inevitable that this question will come up in Yeltsin's speeches throughout his train trip," he added.

Moldova's breakaway region votes

TIRASPOL, Moldova (AP) — The breakaway Trans-Dniester region of eastern Moldova held local elections Sunday as well as a referendum on the withdrawal of Russian troops.

Polling stations opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) and voting was brisk.

Moldova and Russia signed an agreement last August to gradually withdraw Russia's 14th Army for Trans-Dniester. But the region's separatist leaders have re-

jected the pact, fearing the troops' withdrawal would allow Moldova to reestablish administrative control.

Moldovan authorities have declared the elections and referendum illegal.

Moldova became independent when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991. Separatist leaders in mostly Slavic Trans-Dniester fear that Moldova will reunite with Romania, to which most of it belonged before Soviet annexation in 1940.

Ethnic Romanians make up more than 60 per cent of Moldova's population.

Still, a year ago Moldovan authorities joined the Moscow-led Commonwealth of Independent States.

More than 700 people died in five months of fighting between ethnic Romanians and slavs in 1992 before Russian peacekeepers were moved into Trans-Dniester. About 5,000 troops are stationed there now.

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Editorial and advertising offices:
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Traffic — once again

LONGER GROWS the list of traffic accidents, and unacceptably higher becomes the number of the victims of reckless drivers who seem unwilling to learn from the tragedies that continue to plague society as a result of their seemingly adamant refusal to drive safely.

A 10-year old child lost his eye Sunday when a truck driver lost control of his vehicle which he was driving above speed limit — not on highway, but inside one of the most congested areas of the capital. The accident happened on the same day that a traffic seminar ended with "recommendations" to improve safety on the roads and at a time when the government is drafting a new traffic law. The accident also came days after similar irresponsible driving led to the death of many citizens.

That we have a major traffic problem is a stark reality. But that we have thus far failed to do anything about it is even a stronger one that resonates with shame to all of us: citizens and government.

The country cannot afford to wait until the new law is introduced before the carnage on the roads is redressed. The problem is not with legislations. It is with people who do not follow them and with police that do not enforce them. The responsibility for keeping the shadow of death hanging over our streets is equally shared by the people and the government. Something needs to be done now, and urgently so.

And it would not take a genius to figure out what should be done. Traffic police who man the busy circles of Amman should not just watch complacently as motorists dart through the circles in complete disregard to the rights of way; they should not fail to take action against motorists who drive in the middle of the road as if lanes do not exist; they should not just sit idle as drivers violate every traffic rule there is. Ticketing motorists who park illegally is by no means the only task for which the state hires the traffic police. Nor is the role of traffic patrols to stop drivers who are driving perfectly legally for no other reason but to carry out a routine check of their drivers' licences.

It is time the traffic police adopted efficient techniques for making the roads safe to drive on. Every motorist who violates a traffic rule should be held accountable, stopped, ticketed and given a good reason not to repeat his/her violation. That would mean enforcement of the law. That would instill in people the fear of breaking the law and that would eventually teach them to respect the rules of the road. In the absence of a natural respect for the law, fear of punishment is a sufficient method to bring about that respect. This, in a sense, would be one of the tools for giving people the traffic education that they badly need.

That is the short term solution. The long term one would entail traffic education at schools, universities and driving schools. It would entail making that education part of our culture.

What we need is not a new traffic legislation. What we need is enforcement. There is no reason why this should not start now, why it did not start last year, the year before or the one before it.

That 10-year-old child did not have to lose his eye. Unfortunately, he did. The challenge, indeed the duty, is to make sure there are no similar victims today or tomorrow. The government is responsible for ensuring the safety of its citizens. The traffic police must fulfil its role in that responsibility. Citizens who pose a threat to the safety of others must be stopped. Jordanians must not continue to suffer from the irresponsible behaviour of drivers who are on the road to kill.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday said in its editorial that awarding His Majesty King Hussein a peace prize from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and the Ronald Reagan Freedom award in Los Angeles on Friday was an expression of appreciation of His Majesty's central role in peace making in the Middle East and of his role in peace making in the Middle East and of his role in enhancing Jordanian-American relations. The paper said honouring King Hussein at this level is also honouring Jordan's role in its pursuit of comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East and of sound relationships between the world countries. It said his Majesty affirmed in his address at the Simon Wiesenthal Centre that tolerance and understanding in this small world are two things that should be made possible and that previous tragedies should be avoided. The paper said that world countries should be partners in building better future that they all deserve. King Hussein also clearly stressed that the Jordanian people are supporting peace and are working for a peace that would be accepted by future generations, the paper concluded.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said Sunday that drivers are responsible for the rise in road accidents. Taher Al Adwan said there were no malfunctions in the Kingdom's roads, but the real problem is in the way some people drive their cars. He said there was no need for a new traffic law which will culminate in complicating bureaucratic procedures. The current traffic law, which was amended recently, is suitable but the problem lies in other reasons, said the writer. He said citizens agree that the rise in the number of car accidents is caused by a certain category of drivers who can be described as reckless. He said such drivers, who turned the roads into racing arenas, should not be allowed to drive.



In China after Deng, it appears the successor may be bureaucracy

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — The fissures opening in China's body politic as the post-Deng era approaches were apparent during the just ended meeting of the National People's Congress. But it would be wrong to assume that power struggles pre-empt mayhem, or any dramatic policy shifts.

Indeed, it is likely that a degree of open dissent makes it less likely that one small clique will attempt to preempt another after Mr. Deng leaves the scene, as happened with the Gang of Four and their opponents after Mao's death.

In the weeks before the People's Congress, President Jiang Zemin took every opportunity to portray himself as the nation's new leader. He made a dramatic eight-point statement on relations with Taiwan. And with the arrest of Zhou Beifang, boss of the once exemplary Shougang Corporation, he sent a clear warning to Deng family interests (a Deng son heads a Shougang subsidiary quoted in Hong Kong).

But at the People's Congress, Mr. Jiang's rivals and critics had an opportunity to vent their frustrations. The confirmation of the Shandong party secretary,

Jiang Chunyun, as a deputy prime minister, drew "no" votes or abstentions from a spectacularly large 36 per cent of deputies. There were rumblings of discontent over a range of issues, from banking legislation to policy on Hong Kong.

But are these signs of an organised opposition to Mr. Jiang, or simply scattered resentments of particular policies and individuals? Is there a wider attempt within the People's Congress to make itself more than a rubber stamp and gain some supervisory power over government?

The focus of the muscle-flexing in the People's Congress was its chairman, Qiao Shi, who emphasised the need for rule by law rather than by personalities, and who reminded his fellow deputies that senior officials were servants, not masters, of the people.

Mr. Qiao, with a background in state security, has extensive inside knowledge of the apparatus of power, and useful intelligence on other leading figures. His fencing during the pro-democracy demonstrations of 1989 and his emphasis on legal procedures have given him a slightly more liberal image than he may deserve.

The People's Congress gave provincial leaders a

chance to grumble at the government. But those leaders are unlikely to have a common agenda. There are vast differences in interest between huoyant Guangdong Province, which wants as little interference from Beijing as possible, and Sichuan and other central and western provinces that have been little touched by economic boom.

As it meets only once a year, the People's Congress poses no direct threat to Mr. Jiang. But it illustrates the increasing difficulties the centre will have in imposing its will. It also points to a revival of the desire for more open debate, such as existed under Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang.

The instincts of those in power will be to squelch debate if they can and to strengthen bureaucratic power. They will emphasise the party's duty to help the poor, and stress the fact that the party's original legitimacy came partly from its fight against exploitation and corruption.

Both Mr. Jiang's treatment of Shougang Corporation and some of the speeches made at the People's Congress expressed the felt need to combat corruption and the use of political power to accumulate

personal wealth.

Mr. Jiang was not merely taking a swipe at the Deng family for its Shougang connections. He was also sending a warning to other "princelings," to foreign investors who thought they could buy special relationships in China, and to Chinese entrepreneurs who thought that *guanxi*, or personal relationships, could over-ride the rules of the bureaucracy.

Given the extent of corruption, the central government will have trouble achieving much.

But the rhetoric appeals to popular sentiment and is a pretext for the bureaucracy to rein in economic reform that have been exploited to purloin public assets. Those reforms, in any case, were threatened by inflation, the difficulty of refurbishing state enterprises, and the problems of mass migration from impoverished countryside to the cities.

Personal rivalries aside, one can see a certain commonality in the positions of President Jiang, Prime Minister Li Peng, Qiao Shi of the People's Congress and others. Whether by emphasising the rule of law or central authority, all seek to preserve the status quo minus Mr. Deng.

Essentially, that means replacing rule by the power of personality with rule by a nonideological bureaucracy.

The emphasis will remain on economic growth, but in the context of political stability and more even distribution of wealth — to gain support from poorer inland provinces. An adventurist approach to Taiwan will not be on the agenda. The battle will be over who will be the top dog and the degree to which decision-making is to be collective.

This is the probability. More dramatic developments cannot be ruled out. There could be preemptive bids for power by factions in the army, or a sharp swing towards nationalism as part of a power struggle.

But the complexity of the crosscurrents makes a repeat of the post-Mao scenario unlikely. Some heads will roll and some purges will occur, as they always do when the guard changes. But the future looks more like Moscow after the passing of Nikita Khrushchev — a dreary but unalarming thought.

International Herald Tribune

Subway attack was blow to a nation's vulnerable psyche

By Laura King
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The nerve-gas attack on Tokyo's subway system struck not only at unsuspecting commuters, but at Japan's very sense of self. It poisoned minds as well as bodies.

Images of the attack and its aftermath have engraved themselves deeply into the national consciousness. Subway passengers bleeding from the mouth and nose, platoons of police in gas masks and military-style fatigues storming a secretive religious sect's compounds; passersby in Ginza gathering around a huge television screen, listening silently to the bizarre pronouncements of a cult leader.

For some victims, the poison's effects were swift and cruel. For others, they will linger long. For the public psyche, probably both will turn out to be true.

All week long, in private conversation and public commentary, the underlying theme has been one of bewilderment. This is the kind of thing that happens in other countries, people say. Not here. Not to us.

Nearly everyone who lives or works in central Tokyo knows of someone who was caught in the rush-hour attack, or had a brush with it. In offices and shops all week, people exchanged small-scale news of large-scale disaster.

People ask: Our building maintenance man, is he still in the hospital? Have you

heard about the fishmonger's son, who was caught coming home from the seafood auction? Or they say: How lucky you were a little late to work that day.

By week's end, the attack's toll stood at 10 dead and nearly 5,000 sickened, with more than 700 still hospitalized. Many of those afflicted have been told they may suffer long-term internal damage or months of poor eyesight.

And still dawning is the sense of how much worse it could all have been: The apocalyptic Aum Shinri Kyo Sect, on whom suspicion has fallen in the attack, was reported Sunday to have possessed ingredients for enough nerve gas to have killed 4 million people.

This has already been a badly bruising year for Japan. Only 17 days into 1995, an earthquake devastated the port city of Kobe, killing nearly 5,500 people.

Economic woes have been weighing heavy. The Japanese currency has appreciated 10 per cent since the start of the year, hammering export earnings of blue-chip companies and further dampening prospects for recovery from the worst recession since World War II.

And there's a sense of political malaise: Reform hopes have quietly faded, and a weak, cobbled-together coalition that few consider more than a caretaker government has now been in power for nine months.

Japan is coping with a disturbing past as well as present. The 50th anniversary of the war's end — with its associations with bloody Pacific battles, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the start of a humiliating foreign occupation — is stirring strong emotions and firing debate about Japan's wartime responsibility.

So it is chilling to many that the subway attack was carried out with a substance dating from that era, the Nazi-developed nerve gas Sarin.

The synchronised nature of the subway attack — police said poisonous parcels were planted on five trains at around the same time — it was a simultaneous strike at symbols close to Japan's heart.

The station is only steps away from agencies including the elite foreign and finance ministries, whose top officials are an exclusive fraternity made up almost entirely of graduates of Tokyo University.

While the bureaucrats are often seen as invincible, especially by foreigners trying to pry open Japanese markets, the attack literally brought them to their knees, sending grey-suited government men retching and gasping for air along with everyone else.

Then there's Japan's pride in the clean and efficient subways, which were packed Monday morning, as on any workday, with what may be the world's most well-groomed, best-behaved commuters. The sight of these passengers staggering en masse into the street was nearly inconceivable for most Japanese.

So ingrained is the sense of decorum that outside one hard-hat station, a neatly dressed young woman, apparently embarrassed, waved off a rescuer, shaking her head and trying to bow even as she gagged into a handkerchief.

Tokyo itself has suffered its share of calamities this century. It was leveled by an earthquake in 1923 and wrecked by allied firebombing in 1945. The city rebuilt itself from the ruins after both those disasters, and once again, its citizens are showing they are made of stern stuff.

On Monday morning, soon after the attack, a walk along the length of a

major boulevard dotted with subway stops on the affected hilly area showed no signs of panic.

Under brilliant spring sunshine, pedestrians calmly obeyed police orders to detour. Several people politely stopped a passing foreigner to be sure she could read the danger notices at station entrances.

When it comes to seeing warning signs, though, the government may have some hard questions to answer in coming weeks and months about what it knew — and when — about the threat of just such an attack.

The links of the Aum Shinri Kyo sect to poisonous gas production have long been the focus of widespread suspicion. Neighbours of its buildings and compounds have constantly complained of noxious emission.

The day before the subway attack, police requested thousands of gas masks and protective gear from the military and underwent special, secret training in how to use them. Japanese media reported the moves were directly linked to fears the sect had nerve gas and might use it to repel police raids planned in connection with separate investigations.

Editorials on Sunday demanded swift steps to prove whether the group — which continues to proclaim its innocence — was behind the attack. A commentary in the Asahi daily asked: "What do chemicals have to do with religious beliefs."

Reversing tide of trouble in Europe

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

PARIS — European nations have pledged once again to make a fresh start and reverse the tide of troubles on a continent torn by ethnic and nationalist tensions.

The European Stability Pact (ESP), approved by foreign ministers at a Paris conference which ended on Tuesday, committed some 50 nations to respect borders, ethnic minorities and human rights.

It was a familiar litany of lofty ideals, repeated at every international gathering called to deal with European security since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 — with little apparent impact on the wars raging in former Yugoslavia and the Caucasus.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe hailed the pact as a unique exercise in "preventive diplomacy" with a clear message that would help Europe avoid more Bosnia and Chechnyas.

The stability pact does provide some substance, with a web of bilateral and multilateral agreements among countries from the Baltic states to Central Europe.

By setting old problems of borders and minorities, long suppressed during the cold war, these agreements should make it easier for some countries to join the 15-nation European Union (EU), which sponsored the pact, and NATO.

Hungary, for example, managed to complete a deal with Slovakia on minority rights just before the conference and came close to a similar agreement with Romania.

"The process of the stability pact has represented without a doubt one of the catalysts in bilateral negotiations," Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu told the conference.

But the pact has only limited scope, confining itself to potential problems in states which have been told they can join the EU — six Central and Eastern European countries and the three Baltic republics.

Many countries, including France, suggested that similar agreements could be concluded for the Mediterranean, the Caucasus and the Balkans at some point in the future.

But most states in those areas have little or no chance of joining the EU and NATO, taking away a major incentive for them to settle their problems.

Georgia and Ukraine both complained that their problems risked being ignored, while Bosnia and Croatia lamented that more was not done to translate paper principles into reality.

In addition, the spectre of an insecure and unstable Russia hovered over the conference. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev used his speech on Monday to attack NATO's plans to take in former communist states.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe made clear on Tuesday that establishing Russia's place in Europe, an issue not covered by the pact, was perhaps the most important question of all.

"Stability and security on the European continent depend on the quality of relations with Russia," he told a news conference after meeting Kozyrev.

Even making sure that existing agreements in the stability pact are honoured could prove difficult, since they touch on sensitive issues of how far countries should go in granting minority rights without risking the breakup of the state.

This was graphically illustrated by the deal between Hungary and Slovakia, which is supposed to guarantee the rights of 600,000 ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia and the 110,000-strong Slovak minority in Hungary.

Slovakia's far-right national party (SNS) reacted angrily on Monday to the treaty, signalling a possible split in the country's three-month old coalition government.

Jesse Jackson: Israeli government must talk to Hamas

In the following interview with Daphne Barak, Reverend Jesse Jackson indicates Middle East peace will not be achieved unless a Palestinian state is created.

By Daphne Barak

Q: The agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and between Israel and Jordan — are you satisfied with what's happening in the Middle East?

A: I'm elated over the work we've done in the Middle East regarding the peace. American policy was against the Arabs for too many years. This wasn't a policy against peace, but any action to advance peace requires, first of all, fulfilling an obligation to the Palestinian people. When I visited Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria in 1979, I put pressure on Yasser Arafat to start negotiating. I preached that the right of the Palestinian people to exist must be recognised. There are still many problems, but the dialogue between the Israelis and the PLO has prepared the way for peace in the Middle East.

Q: Are you satisfied with what's been happening in the West Bank since the peace agreement?

A: Well, this protracted process over so many years has created so much bitterness and anguish among the people whose relatives are in prison, or who are without means of livelihood, without a future. These people (the Palestinians) — must be given hope. They need leadership.

Q: Yasser Arafat is the leader they need over there?

A: Well, for the time being, he's the leader who

has the most recognition among the Palestinians. He's led his followers from exile back to their land. I think that (Shimon) Peres and... what's his name?... Rabin (Yitzhak Rabin), they deserve a lot of credit, for having had the courage to lead their people to take this step. A lot of credit...

Q: Do you see a Palestinian state in the future?

A: Well, what do you see? The Palestinians won't rest until they get a state of their own, with their own flag.

Q: How do you explain the fact that at the very time that a process in a positive direction has begun, that's when the extremists start cropping up? And I really mean extremists, both on the Hamas side and also on the side of the Jewish settlers?

A: Extremism — that's a phenomenon that's rampant all over the world today. It's created by poverty, frustration, lack of hope. These are people who believe in "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." You have to create love in these people. Love engenders: "Live and let live" while hate engenders "kill and be killed..."

Q: Saddam Hussein!

A: Yes....

Q: It's hard for me to forget your meeting — yours and President Saddam's during the middle of the Gulf war.

A: I really don't know what his situation is today... I met him in the middle of the Gulf war. I succeeded in saving Americans, and other foreign citizens in

Kuwait. I actually got them out at the last moment. I'm sorry he invaded Kuwait. I'm sorry he didn't listen to me and didn't get out in time. It was such an uncalculated act.

Q: How did he impress you?

A: Listen, I didn't spend enough time with him... I can't analyse his character. We talked, I tried to convince him.

Q: Are you still in touch today?

A: No.

Q: What's the next step in the Middle East, in your opinion?

A: First of all — there has to be something that will appeal to the PLO and Hamas, so that the Palestinians don't destroy themselves and everything around them. The situation can't be remedied by war, only by coming to terms.

Q: That means you're in favour of talks with Hamas?

A: Wait a minute... you have to give them something that will appease them...

Q: Should there be talks with Hamas or not?

A: Of course. They have to talk with them. How can you solve problems without talking to people?

Q: So soon after their operations, I assume a declaration like that from you will have repercussions.

A: Yes....

Q: The peace agreement: Israel-PLO, and Israel-Jordan — can they be considered the achievements of President Clinton?

A: They're the direct result of a new approach in the Middle East. Let's talk.

In fact, the achievement belongs to (Yitzhak) Rabin, (Shimon) Peres and Yasser Arafat. These are men who couldn't have advanced matters as they did, if they hadn't had the courage to talk to each other. They deserve the credit! Once the dialogue was established — then the Clinton administration entered the picture...

Q: This peace is costing the Americans a lot of money!

A: That's a tough question... Look, it's worth while to cancel the debts of countries. After all, what's the value of the debt, if it's shrouded in blood? In the past — we sold weapons, we made money from wars. This didn't help the peace. Missiles and artillery assistance don't advance peace. Talks and negotiations — do advance it.

Q: So in other words: You disagree with Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich (speaker of the Senate) who are calling for cuts in American foreign aid?

Q: Bob Dole (Senate majority leader) is probably sticking his head in the sand. In the long run, if you stop wars — you're making a cut in the aid the region will need in the future. It's a mistake to isolate ourselves from the world and shut our eyes. It's a short range type of vision.

Q: Bill Clinton!

A: Yes....

Q: How do you account for the drop in his popularity?

A: He's under such a massive attack: on him, on his family, on his be-



haviour. No American president has ever undergone such violent personal attacks. In fact, his achievements in foreign policy — the peace in the Middle East, Haiti, South Africa — they're significant. His first step, on the other hand, was strange. That whole business about homosexuals in the army was

perhaps very human, but it wasn't so important as to rate first priority. He invested so much energy and media in that — I don't understand it.

He also promised equality and social justice: Where is that? The situation is only getting worse, that's why many people who had hopes — were

disappointed! In addition, each time Dole and Gingrich attack him personally — he folds up, he doesn't react. For instance, Gingrich's (chairman of the House) mother said her son thinks that Hillary Clinton is a bitch, (a comment that caused a lot of noise in the U.S.) — and Clinton never responded. He didn't be-

have like a man... If someone had called my wife a bitch I would have answered him, and how! Clinton should have demanded an apology or otherwise he should have refused to invite Gingrich to the White House after that. How can he let people talk about his wife disrespectfully? So Clinton got the image of being a weak man. He might be brilliant, talented — but because of a few mistakes, he's represented as being a weak man.

Q: Will you be running for president in the coming elections?

A: I haven't decided yet. I'm giving it serious consideration. It's too early.

Q: Why early? Other candidates such as Bill Graham have already taken their opening shot.

A: Still — it's too early. I'm not ready to speak about it yet.

Q: What about Jerusalem?

A: That has to be sorted out between Israel and the Palestinians, and not by bombs or missiles.

Q: Israel and the Palestinians? It's a city in which everybody or almost everybody has an interest.

A: I'm not going to get involved in all those complications. Let the people who live there resolve the problem... My concern is, and write this down: International legality, maintaining human rights, self determination and economic justice.

Daphne Barak's interviews are broadcast on television networks and are published in newspapers in America, Europe and the Middle East.

Lack of funding threatens Iraq relief

(Continued from page 12)

contributions of up to \$146 million.

This year's plea for \$188 million is aimed at financing programmes for immunisation campaigns, water and sewerage treatment, rehabilitation and food distribution. The figure incorporates money sought by NGOs operating in Iraq.

The international sanctions against Iraq have resulted in a "critical lack of medicines as well as food shortages," said Mr. Doolan. "Water and sewerage treatment facilities have broken down. Children are forced to carry water to school and signs of malnutrition are abundant. Disease rates are alarmingly high."

Mr. Doolan added: "The sanctions are targeted at the government but it is the ordinary people who are suffering."

Furthermore, Mr. Doolan is concerned that donor resistance to an increased number of programmes in central and southern Iraq is high.

According to Mr. Doolan, political considerations appear to have prevented some donors from participating in or considering humanitarian programmes in central and southern Iraq and donors are anxious about the ability to monitor programmes through a beneficiary level.

"We are trying to reassure donors that their money will reach the people, but they don't believe us. We cannot enter into the political arguments at all, but we are bringing out the humanitarian ones."

The economic sanctions, which are reviewed every two months, will not be lifted until Iraq's compliance with U.N. resolutions drawn up following the Gulf crisis, satisfies U.N. Security Council members.

Allegations suggesting Iraq has clandestinely rebuilt its weaponry capability, that its economic resources are channelled into the construction of "palaces" for government use and also the regime's refusal to accept a Security Council proposal for a limited oil sale with the proviso that expenditure of resultant revenue be monitored, has hardened donors to the urgent needs of the Iraqi people.

In the meantime at the end of this month, Care will withdraw from north-

ern Iraq and concentrate its efforts in the central and southern parts of the country, where Mr. Doolan describes the situation now as "desperate."

Other NGOs operate in the north, but they are neither permanent, like Care or Britain's Oxfam, nor do they have official agreements with the Iraqi government.

As part of the U.N. inter-agency appeal, Care International has appealed for \$527,824 for emergency food relief for primary school children. The programme aims to provide between 16.6 per cent and 19 per cent of the daily energy requirements to 250,000 school children from six to 12 years. The programme will last for 117 days.

"Every day each child will receive a packet of high energy biscuits and a glass of milk with some sugar. It will be consumed at school so it won't be shared out at home," Mr. Doolan said.

Care is seeking \$315,288 to establish post-natal care units in nine community health centres in Hilla governorate, central Iraq.

In central Iraq, mortality rates for infants and children under five have increased from 12 per 1,000 to 148 per 1,000 in the last five years, according to WHO statistics.

One other project is

Care's educational support programme, for which the agency is asking \$510,501 from donors.

The programme's objective is to repair 50 primary schools in Hilla and the restoration of water and sanitation facilities there. The lack of safe and adequate water supplies and poor sanitation has resulted in the transmission of water-borne diseases, such as typhoid and malaria, among children.

The education support programme also aims to increase availability of education materials for pupils and teachers.

In its Iraq programmes, Care employs 16 international staff and approximately 750 national staff.

The meeting in Geneva secured pledges from Japan of \$4.75 million and 6.9 million dollars (approximately \$5.5 million) from the Netherlands. Mr. Doolan said. The European Union (EU) humanitarian organisation, Norway, Sweden and Denmark have made unspecified pledges of assistance.

"We still have a long way to go," said Mr. Doolan, who spends two weeks in Iraq. "Things look grim and unless members of the U.N. come forward with firmer commitment for the U.N. humanitarian programme, I can only predict things will get worse and worse."

Israel: Poll date can be met

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian goods from the Gaza Strip to Israel, the West Bank, Jordan and Egypt and the entry of Israeli goods into Gaza.

"Israeli measures are unacceptable and therefore Palestinians will reject Arab normalisation of trade and economic relations with Israel," Mr. Salam said.

Morocco's King Hassan told the French newspaper Le Monde on Saturday that many Arab states would lift their economic boycott of Israel if the Arab League gave them the green light.

Mr. Salam accused Israel of "confiscating accumulated Palestinian tax revenues" and said changes needed to be made in the PLO-Israel economic accord.

"Israel confiscates tax revenues owed to Palestinians because the mechanism of tax collections stated in the 1993 PLO-Israel economic accord has proved to be a failure and deprives Palestinians of 70

per cent of their tax revenues.

"There is a need to make crucial changes to the economic accord because what was suitable as an accord between two enemies negotiating for peace doesn't work for neighbours who signed a peace treaty," Mr. Salam said.

The Palestinian Authority, which took control of Gaza and Jericho last July, says Israel owes it more than \$550 million annually in tax revenues from Palestinian workers whereas Israel says it owes only up to \$170 million.

"Israel is paying us \$10 million per month, which is only 25 per cent of the whole amount owed," Mr. Salam said.

"We demand that Israel pay an interest of 10 to 12 per cent on frozen funds it owes us. We estimate this amount at around \$150 million in the past 10 months for Gaza and the West Bank."

King addresses Los Angeles forum

(Continued from page 1)

sion," said the King.

He ended by praising the United States for standing by Jordan during the process of peace-making and urging it to continue its support in the era of peacebuilding. The King expressed his hope that "the next 100 years of the region's long history will earn the title of the 'century of peace.'"

The Los Angeles World Affairs Council is one of the United States' leading forums for prominent foreign and national policymakers and

Kurds defiant

(Continued from page 1)

"It's nice here. The Turkish government frightened us so we came," said a mother of nine children who gave her name only as Zelfitan, 53.

A U.N. officer said another evacuation from Zakho to Atrush may take place within a few days.

Refugee Leyla Ereo said she fled into the predominantly Kurdish north of Iraq after harassment by Turkish troops. She told Reuters she now feared the same again.

"The U.N. is going to guard us. That's why we're going to the camp," she said. "I think we'll have a better life there."

Others said their villages were burnt by troops after they refused to join the state-backed village guard militias, deployed in Turkey against the PKK, which has fought a 10-year insurgency in south-east Turkey.

In Raniya, Iraq, villagers said Turkish warplanes killed a six-year-old Kurdish girl and wounded six civilians when they bombed a mountain village.

Residents of Pilingan, 30 kilometres south of the Turkey-Iraq border, said a dozen Turkish warplanes had bombed the village at least 20 times since they began their offensive last Monday.

600 killed in Algeria

(Continued from page 1)

country would not hold peace talks with Islamist opponents in a foreign country, following an offer from Morocco to host them.

"There is no refusal of dialogue, but the dialogue must be in Algeria and between Algerians," Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammad

A child called Naranch died in one raid and six other people were injured on the first day of the operation, they said.

"Naranch was playing at the river when the airplanes came and started to bomb. We called her to come into the house but she had already been hit by a bomb," said her 11-year-old sister Hemina.

Some homes were damaged by bombs but "we were lucky, the Turks didn't hit well," said Mustapha Mohammad, a teacher. "Most of the bombs landed in the river or on fields."

He pointed out craters two metres wide.

Another Pilingan resident, Ahmad Sherif, said: "They bombed us because the PKK have a camp not far from here."

Washington is to monitor the northern Iraq offensive for possible human rights abuses by Turkey, which is often accused of mistreating its Kurdish population.

Turkish Foreign Minister Murat Karayalcin said Turkey could not let the PKK control northern Iraq, whatever international pressures Ankara may face.

"Northern Iraq has been left to the PKK so much so that they have even planted fields of opium poppy there," the Hurriyet daily quoted him on Sunday as saying.

Salah Dembri told a news conference during a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Morocco's King Hassan was quoted by the French daily Le Monde on Saturday as saying his country would provide "a land of asylum" for a peace conference if Algeria asked it to host one.

Rabin, Netanyahu in war of words

(Continued from page 1)

60 per cent support in the year-earlier survey.

Jaffee centre director Zeev Maoz said the results reflected a reversal of a gradual softening of Israeli views in previous years. He attributed the shift to disappointment over the peace process.

"There is a revolution in the trends... the main reason is the terrorism over the past year," he told the Associated Press.

The annual survey showed that over the past year support increased sharply for tough policies such as travel bans and curfews against Palestinians as well as imposing the death penalty on militants.

According to Haaretz, the Labour Party wants to demonstrate to the public that Likud has no alternatives to the government's peace-making policies.

General elections are to take place in Israel in November 1996 at the latest. Mr. Rabin has announced

he will stand again for the post of prime minister, who is to be directly elected for the first time.

Asked whether his comments constituted "electioneering," Mr. Rabin told Yediot Aharoot that his words "will obviously have repercussions on the vote."

"They are part of a political battle to win public support and allow the peace process to continue," Mr. Rabin added.

Likud is fighting the expansion of autonomy, arguing it will bring Palestinian statehood and relinquishing war-torn land.

Mr. Rabin also accused previous Likud-led governments of creating "perpetual friction" by planting Jewish settlements in or near Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

He mentioned Hebron, a city that is home to about 450 Israelis who live among 180,000 Palestinians, and said that it "requires more soldiers than settlers to give them (the settlers) security."

Rabbani in new offensive

(Continued from page 12)

tains, but it could not be independently confirmed.

Incoming rockets from Taliban positions, several kilometres away, occasionally blasted holes in the road outside Kadai Haidar Khan.

Last week Mr. Rabbani's troops drove the Taliban out of their stronghold at Charasayab, south of the city, and out of rocket range of Kabul.

For the first time in three years a single group, Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami party, controls the entire city and the surrounding area. As a result the city has been quiet. The relentless rocketing of the past year has stopped, although many people fear the peace will be short lived.

"It always begins again. I don't think the fighting is over," said Parwahish Alim, a teacher at one of the schools that opened on Saturday, for the first time in three years.

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WHERE AFTER SALES SERVICE IS A REALITY

America wins, the poor lose — U.N. study

LONDON (R) — The U.S.-backed Uruguay Round bid to extend free trade principles to world agriculture promises more affluence in America but may further impoverish poor nations in Africa, says a United Nations study.

It "will not improve the lot" of the poor, food deficit nations.

They face higher food import bills just as they are robbed of the some of the value of preferential access to consumer markets, says the study by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The FAO says western Europe is another loser from the 1994 Uruguay Round of tariff and subsidy cuts agreed under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"There are always winners and losers in these economic projections," said James Greenfield, FAO head of commodity policy and projections.

"In this study North America, Australia and New Zealand make trade gains, while Europe loses. Africa, broadly speaking, will be worse off on its trade account unless it expands food production, diversifies export crops and increases intra-regional commodity trading," he pointed out.

The United States has championed the ideal of free trade throughout much of the 20th century.

Under the Uruguay Round the FAO calculates that North America will export more cereals, fats, oils, meat and milk.

Its annual net farm exports will rise from \$15.1 billion to \$22.2 billion by the year 2000.

But the European Union, where farm protection is being cut, can expect a surge in imports. The FAO thinks western Europe will spend more than \$15 billion buying foreign food in the year 2000, about three times as much as it did in the late 1980s.

The FAO says that, contrary to expectations, the Uruguay Round is unlikely to do much to stabilise world cereal prices.

Third World export earnings are likely to keep pace with rising food import bills. But Africa, where many of the poorest nations are located, can be expected to feel the pinch.

The Uruguay Round is seen as a factor in turning an African agricultural export surplus in the late 1980s of \$1.0 billion to a deficit of \$500 million by the year 2000.

Africans set self-reliance as key to new action plan

CAIRO (AFP) — African foreign ministers are to launch Monday in Cairo a revamped economic and social development plan based on self-reliance, officials said.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), backed by the African Development Bank, prepared the "agenda for action" which acknowledges past failures and puts fresh emphasis on what the continent can do for itself.

"We reaffirm that Africa's development is first and foremost the responsibility of our governments and peoples," says a draft of the document obtained by AFP.

Under the heading "What we can do for ourselves," the agenda urges good governance, peace, democracy, and human rights.

And it calls for maximum support to the OAU Mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution and the peace fund.

The ministers would bear a report on Somalia during their meeting in the Egyptian capital which follows weekend talks by experts, said Said Rifaat, Egypt's deputy foreign minister for African affairs.

The mechanism, agreed at the OAU's Cairo summit in 1993, will be debated again on the eve of a summit set for April 20 in Tunis.

The 42-point agenda calls on member states to:

- Boost agricultural output.
- Set aside at least one per cent of Gross Domestic Product for science and technology.
- Give priority to basic infrastructure such as roads and water supply.
- Restructure exports and expand intra-African trade.
- Promote domestic and foreign investment, and strengthen capital markets.
- Pool resources to strengthen regional cooperation, promote multinational joint ventures.
- Work out a scheme for industrial restructuring, expand exploration and use of natural resources.
- Link telecommunications.
- Establish an African Energy Commission and a single bureau of the Trans-African Highways Authorities.

The Cairo agenda also calls on creditors to help reduce the continent's debt burden, which stands at around \$300 billion according to the Egyptian foreign ministry, and particularly the levels of servicing debts.

It asks donors to set less stock by their own agendas and give greater understanding to Africa's priorities.

The document stresses the need to follow up closely the recommendations by creating a ministerial standing committee.

Arab Gulf countries consider corporate tax

DUBAI (R) — Arab Gulf states are considering introducing corporate tax, a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) official was quoted as saying.

The United Arab Emirates' Khaleej Times newspaper quoted Abdullah Al Mulla, the economic adviser of the Riyadh-based GCC, as saying economic experts were studying the tax issue "as a revision of the member states' economic policies regarding company taxes has become necessary."

GCC countries, however, are not planning to introduce income tax to the oil-rich region, Sheikh Al Mulla said.

But he said the issue of corporate tax "is receiving a lot of attention, particularly in the wake of member states' proposals to follow the steps adopted by Oman."

Of the six GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar — only Oman has introduced tax on companies owned by Omanis.

Taxation is a sensitive subject in Gulf states, where political stability has depended to a great extent on the ability of governments to deliver huge subsidies and spare their citizens financial hardships.

China's top judges warn of criminal threat to economy

BEIJING (AFP) — China's top judicial officials have called for urgent action to curb the rising crime wave and official abuse of the legal system, warning that the country's economic development is at stake.

Chinese courts must "redouble efforts in strengthening the exercise of power to safeguard economic construction of the country," Supreme People's Court president Ren Jianxin said.

"More economic disputes will rise in the course of economic restructuring, and judicial bodies have to do away with the influence of local and departmental protectionism," Mr. Ren said.

Chinese courts handled more than a million economic disputes last year, with the number of cases involving overseas parties rising 20 per cent from 1993, Mr. Ren said, without providing comparative figures.

Mr. Ren urged courts nationwide to show impartiality when judging cases involving foreign parties and to "observe the stipulations of world conventions China has signed" as well as Chinese laws.

To ensure justice and the rights of all parties involved, he said courts across the country had been working hard to eliminate protectionism and encourage transparency in court proceedings.

Some 1,094 court staff were punished last year for illegal exercise of duty, including 34 judges who were given criminal sentences.

Mr. Ren also warned of the threat posed by a rising crime wave, which saw the number of non-economic criminal cases handled by the courts increase 19.75 per cent from 1993 to 482,927 last year.

Part of the blame for the rise in crime can be placed on the "poor social security situation in some places," he said.

Economic reforms have pushed up the number of unemployed in China, many of whom fall outside China's inadequate social security net.

The problem is exacerbated in major cities which have witnessed a massive influx of migrant labourers. Out of work and ineligible for unemployment benefits, many have turned to crime in order to survive.

Mr. Ren also pledged greater protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) in 1995, with training courses being set up to produce specialist IPR judges. China handled a total of 1,622 IPR lawsuits last year.

IPR work will be especially crucial this year, following the recent signing of a Sino-U.S. accord on copyright protection that involves close U.S. monitoring to ensure China follows through on its commitment to step up enforcement.

Meanwhile, Zhang Siping, head of the Supreme People's Procuratorate which handles public prosecutions, said last year's operations had focused on combating corruption and strengthening supervision over law enforcement.

Procuratorial organs nationwide handled more than 60,000 cases in 1994, 80 per cent of them involving graft, bribery, misuse of public funds and abuse of power.

Some 3.4 billion yuan (\$400 million) of illegally obtained funds were recovered.

Japan's government under pressure to take action on yen

TOKYO (AFP) — With Japan's expected economic recovery in jeopardy, the government has come under growing pressure to take strong action to stop stock prices from slumping and the yen from breaking through the ceiling.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 leading issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange slumped to a 31-month low towards the weekend. The yen soared to an all-time high of 87.97 to the dollar in New York and threatened to continue soaring.

"By lowering the discount rate, the government can demonstrate at home and abroad its determination to sustain economic growth," the economic newspaper Nihon Keizai said in an editorial at the weekend.

"It would give a favourable impact, not only on the domestic economy, but also on the yen quotation," the business daily said.

It added that the key interest rate, charged by the Bank of Japan on its lending to commercial banks, can be slashed from the current record low of 1.75 per cent to about one per cent.

But the coalition cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, a Socialist, has failed to come up with concrete dollar-support measures after huddling several times so far this month on the issue of monetary unrest.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, a former Liberal Democrat, told the lower house budget committee that "the government was not considering concrete measures to support stock prices."

The state Economic Planning Agency announced an annualised 3.4 per cent decline in gross domestic product in the October-December period.

But it attributed the setback to such special factors as a fallback in consumer spending and a pause in housing construction, and reaffirmed its theory that Japan's year-old "gradual economic recovery" stayed on course.

Hirohiko Okumura, a senior analyst at Nomura Research Institute, said that Japan's economic, monetary and financial systems are supported on the basis of three per cent economic growth.

But an analysis by the Nihon Keizai newspaper said that if the yen remained at around 90 yen, Japan's economic growth in the new fiscal year from April 1 would be limited to 2.0 per cent due to curbs on investment in plants and equipment and exports.

As the yen's rise is eroding their export earnings, many corporations are selling their share holdings to dress up their accounts before the fiscal year ends on March 31, brokers said.

The Nikkei index slipped below 16,000 points, and brokers said it was seen likely to move towards the low of 14,990 points reached in August 1992, drastically draining shareholder profits.

The Bank of Japan periodically stepped in the foreign exchange market with dollar buying but failed to stop the yen's appreciation.

Analysts expect Fed to keep rates steady despite weak dollar

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve (Fed) is expected to place the health of the domestic economy ahead of the well-being of the dollar and hold off from raising interest rates at a policy-making meeting Tuesday, analysts said.

While the central bank would like to see the dollar worth more on the foreign currency market, it's not likely to raise rates now to try to bring that about — especially at a time when the U.S. economy is showing increasing signs of slowing.

"I'm sure they will discuss it (the weak dollar) at some length," said Scott Pardee, a former Fed official who is in New York. "But it won't force them to push up rates at this time."

The dollar dropped to yet another record low against the Japanese yen last week, before recovering slightly Friday. Since the start of the year it has fallen over 10 per cent against the yen and 8½ per cent against the German mark.

Higher U.S. interest rates would make the dollar a more profitable currency for investors to hold. But the tighter credit would also tend to dampen U.S. economic growth by raising borrowing costs for companies and consumers.

The central bank's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee has already raised short-term rates seven times in the past year in an effort to engineer a soft-landing for the high-flying U.S. economy and prevent a take-off of inflation.

There are increasing signs that the strategy is starting to work. Orders for durable goods such as cars and appliances fell in February for the first time in four months. Home building dropped last month to its lowest level in a year.

And automobile dealers are complaining about declining sales — in a letter sent to Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan last week urging him not to raise rates further.

"The tea leaves seem to me to be showing a downshift in growth," central bank vice chairman Alan Blinder said.

In a clear signal that he does not believe the Fed should tighten credit further, Mr. Blinder told Reuters last week that he felt that monetary policy now was roughly balanced between the risk the Fed had raised interest rates too far or not enough.

"The most likely story is moderate growth through '96," added Fed Governor Lawrence Lindsey.

That raises the question whether the central bank has finished raising rates for the current business cycle.

David Berson, chief economist at the Federal National Mortgage Association, expects the Fed to raise interest rates further — but only one more time, possibly in May.

"They need to make sure growth slows... in order to keep inflation from moving up," Mr. Berson said.

Israeli panel okays privatisation options

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's ministerial economics committee has approved an options programme aimed at speeding up the government's privatisation scheme, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Sunday.

"I see in this decision a green light for the government to go ahead with this programme," Mr. Shohat told reporters.

Under the programme, which still needs final approval from parliament, the government plans to distribute to every citizen above the age of 18 options to buy shares in government companies and banks at a 20 to 30 per cent discount.

In the first stage each adult citizen will receive a package of options they can cash in for 2,000 shekels (\$670) worth of shares at a price of only 1,400 (\$468) to 1,600 shekels (\$535).

Some of Israel's most attractive companies will be candidates for the programme, including Israel Chemicals, Bezeq Israel Telecom, El Al Israel Airlines, the Zar shipping company and the four biggest banks.

In 1994, the government raised only \$205 million from privatisations although this year this number jumped to \$528 million in the first quarter alone.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 27, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take steps to improve conditions at home and have more harmony there today. Remove any obstacles in the path of your progress towards ultimate success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make sure you are living according to your philosophical beliefs. Make plans to improve your social life in the days ahead and you'll be happy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Find the right outlet for your special talents today. An intuitive suggestion could be erroneous now, so don't follow it or there could be trouble.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to have greater abundance in the future. Show increased devotion to family members today and you will have much love and appreciation in return.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Outline a course of action that could give you added income today. Plan how to stretch your budget and have more security in the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put those ideas to work that will give you added progress. A loyal friend can give valuable advice at this time for you to get what you want.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be sure not to comment about things you know little about. Be sensible in handling matters of communication at this time and there will be peace.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have fine creative ideas that need expression today. Allow time for recreational activities you enjoy with loved ones this evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make sure that you carry through with new responsibilities. Show more consideration for a loved one or there could be problems.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new project you have in mind needs more study before you go ahead. Don't take any chance with your health in any of your activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An excellent time to catch up with your correspondence today. Concentrate on how to be more productive in the future and you will find more success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Come to a fine accord with family members early in the day. Try to please the one you are most fond of and there will be much affection in return.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper

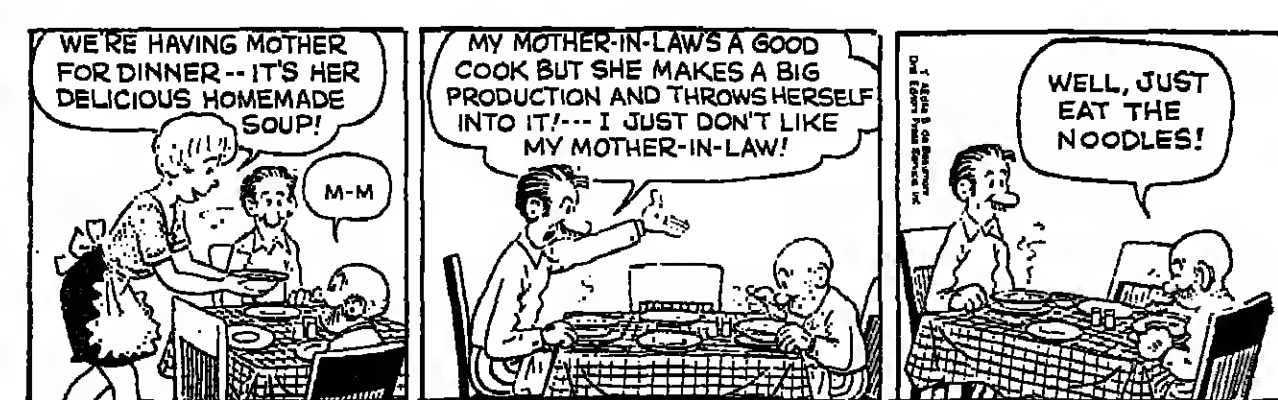
Peanuts



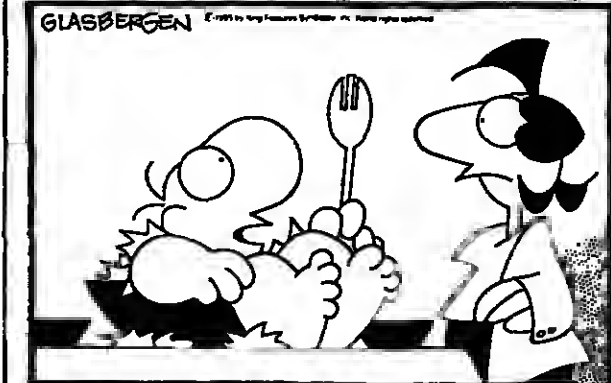
Andy Capp



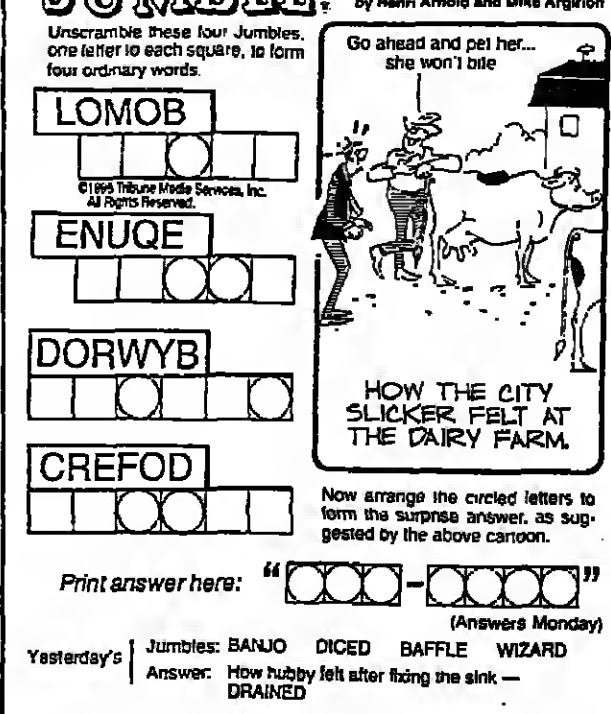
Mutt'n'Jeff



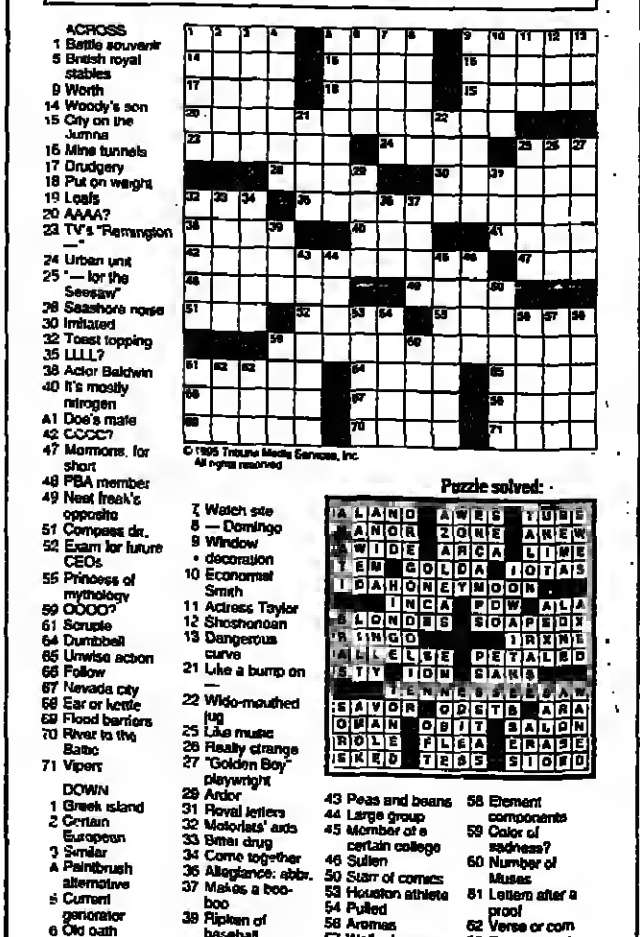
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THE Daily Crossword



Insurers take steps against climate — related risks

BERLIN (R) — Insurers fear billions of dollars in extra claims could bankrupt some companies if global warming increases the frequency and severity of storms and droughts, industry representatives said Sunday.

While scientists still debate the impact of "greenhouse gases" like carbon dioxide (CO2) and other man-made factors on the atmosphere, insurers say climate-related catastrophes have already increased significantly in the past decade.

And while the link between global warming and weather run amok has not yet been conclusively established, insurers are taking steps to see that their own risks are covered.

For consumers, this could mean coverage limits, higher deductibles and higher premiums. Some people will not be able to buy adequate property insurance at any price, said Frank Nutter, president of the Reinsurance Association of America.

A severe storm striking Miami or the northeastern United States could cause more than \$50 billion in damage, nearly one-third the \$180 billion capital base of the entire U.S. insurance industry. Some companies would be wiped out.

"If we are in a period of a series of extreme events that we are not prepared for, we could see major insolvencies," Mr. Nutter told a conference sponsored by the environmentalist group Greenpeace.

In Britain, a sudden need for disaster-related outlays of \$5 billion to \$10 billion (\$8 billion to \$16 billion) would be critical for the industry, said Andrew Dlugolecki, chief manager of operations at General Accident.

"The industry must begin to recognise the dangers, but it is still conservative and slow to do so," said Rolf Gerling, president of the

Gerling Institute for Risk Research in Zurich, a reinsurance company.

The conference was timed to coincide with the start of a two-week U.N. gathering here to discuss what should be done to limit the impact of CO2 emissions on the earth's climate.

Most scientists agree the earth is getting warmer because of the "greenhouse effect" in which gases such as CO2 or methane trap a growing amount of the sun's warmth in the atmosphere.

This may be causing more frequent and severe storms in some regions and drought or flooding in others.

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, industrialized nations agreed to roll back CO2 emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

The Berlin conference aims to review progress towards this end and try to set goals into the next century, including commitments from developing countries, but political wrangling has reduced chances for a breakthrough.

Climate concerns are already blocking development of tourist resorts and World Bank-funded infrastructure projects in developing countries because they cannot get insurance, Mr. Dlugolecki said.

After hurricane Andrew caused about \$17 billion of damage when it hit Florida in 1992, insurance companies raised consumers' premiums by around a quarter and put limits on coverage.

Reinsurance companies, which underwrite insurance companies' risk exposure, raised their premiums by 400 to 500 per cent after hurricane Andrew. They also capped coverage and raised deductibles so that direct insurers' costs were effectively increased even more, Mr. Nutter said.

Governments have kept insurance companies from re-insuring completely from high-risk markets. Florida, for example, passed a law that would require any insurance company wanting to pull out of the state to spread its withdrawal over 20 years.

But the industry will be looking for increased partnership with government to cover its risks.

"Only the government has the financial resources to cope with risks of this scale," Mr. Nutter said.

World airports report healthy 1994 growth

GENEVA (R) — Air passenger traffic worldwide rose by a healthy eight per cent last year to more than two billion passengers, according to a survey of world airports published Monday.

The survey, from Airports Council International (ACI), showed the United States was still the undisputed world leader in air travel. Eight of the 10 busiest airports were American including the leader, Chicago's O'Hare Airport, which handled 66.4 million passengers.

ACI officials hailed the figures, which included a rise in cargo tonnage of 13 per cent, as evidence of a recovery from recession and the lingering effects of the 1991 Gulf war.

But industry sources said the recent weakness of the U.S. dollar against the Japanese yen and German mark could threaten passenger growth this year if Americans are forced to change their travel habits.

"People are getting worried already," said one source. "The big question is for the summer — will there be a summer surge if the dollar remains so weak?"

"The Japanese will be able to travel as much as they like, and Europeans will find America very cheap. But the Americans may decide to stay at home, to go to Florida for example, rather than their favourite holiday destinations abroad," he pointed out.

ACI said 401 airports participated in the survey, although it said coverage was sparse in Africa, China and Australia. Chinese and Australian airports were also not included although Chinese airports are reck-

oned to carry some 50 million passengers a year.

ACI is an association of more than 420 international airports and airport authorities, running close to 1,000 airports in over 140 countries.

Second-busiest airport in the world was Atlanta, Georgia, with 54.4 million passengers, a 13.9 per cent increase. Dallas's Fort Worth Airport was third, with 52.6 million travellers.

London's Heathrow was the fourth busiest, at 51.7 million. Frankfurt was in eighth place with 35.1 million passengers.

The world's fastest-growing major airport was Seoul, which showed a 19.6 per cent rise to 27.3 million passengers. U.S. airports, including Las Vegas and St. Louis, also recorded healthy growth.

By region, North America and the Pacific recorded increases of almost nine per cent over 1993. European and Asian airports enjoyed 8.3 per cent growth, followed by airports in Latin America and the Caribbean, which reported a 6.7 per cent increase.

ACI said the 17 airports reporting in Africa — no South African airports are ACI members — registered a 9.5 per cent rise in 1994.

Cargo figures, seen as a more reliable economic indicator, told a different story. Asia showed the strongest rise at 13.8 per cent, ahead of North America (13.5 per cent), the Pacific region (13.1), Latin America and the Caribbean (12.5), and Europe (11.1).

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - GERMANY				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 26/03/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIG	200	37475	187.000	187.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2050	9115	4.390	4.450
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	2300	9936	4.300	4.320
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1000	1350	1.400	1.350
THE HOUSING BANK	6500	39325	6.040	6.050
JORDAN KOWALIT BANK	1546	4482	2.900	2.900
JORDAN GULF BANK	1500	1750	1.170	1.160
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	900	3384	3.760	3.760
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	264	964	3.650	3.650
REIT REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	3300	7021	2.100	2.100
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	23000	25530	1.110	1.110
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1050	1281	1.230	1.230
BANKS SECTOR	42610	141593	INDEX NUMBER: 159.15	CHANGE: +0.23%
JORDAN INSURANCE	1007	3273	3.250	3.250
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	10500	19900	1.850	1.800
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	9650	24338	2.510	2.520
INSURANCE SECTOR	21157	47511	INDEX NUMBER: 134.37	CHANGE: -0.12%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1350	2093	1.550	1.550
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	1800	2700	1.490	1.500
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2450	12768	5.090	5.090
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	2750	13770	4.950	5.050
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1500	4445	2.950	2.950
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	350	660	1.900	1.880
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	200	232	1.150	1.160
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	5000	4750	0.950	0.950
HOUSING & VENTURE	3000	1320	0.440	0.440
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAI	280	2882	10.400	10.300
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDORE HOTELS	100	232	2.280	2.320
ARAB TRADER FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	12545	36154	2.860	2.880
SERVICES SECTOR	29325	84045	INDEX NUMBER: 126.10	CHANGE: +0.29%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	18300	54890	2.990	3.000
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	700	3215	4.450	4.450
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1950	7830	4.030	4.030
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	300	1710	5.700	5.700
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	2800	7529	2.680	2.680
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	2000	8000	4.000	4.000
SUTHERLAND & WRIGHT	1550	3885	2.500	2.500
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	350	907	2.590	2.590
BAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	11850	88638	7.480	7.480
JORDAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	3600	8096	2.250	2.250
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	2600	14585	5.600	6.430
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	31550	20192	0.630	0.640
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2150	3010	1.400	1.400
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	9700	20327	2.000	2.100
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	850	844	1.110	1.110
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	5300	3431	0.650	0.660
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1750	21741	4.380	4.400
JORDAN CEMENT-CEMENTALS	12600	215676	1.390	1.450
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	8288	18627	2.210	2.250
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	36000	12669	3.510	3.550
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1250	2443	1.980	1.960
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	123288	304118	INDEX NUMBER: 118.29	CHANGE: +0.19%
GRAND TOTAL	216380	577266	INDEX NUMBER: 139.41	CHANGE: +0.22%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		56237		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		70748		

De Beers says Russian diamond sales hit earnings

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The De Beers diamond multinational has announced a seven per cent drop in 1994 earnings, blaming a recent trend by Russia of selling rough diamonds directly to the market.

But De Beers Chairman Julian Ogilvie Thompson said he was confident Russia would sign a new marketing contract with its London-based Central Selling Organisation (CSO), which in recent years has handled 80 per cent of world gem diamond sales.

Russia's present contract runs out at the end of this year.

The combined attributable earnings of South African-based De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd and Swiss-based De Beers Centenary A.G. fell seven per cent to \$555 million, although worldwide retail sales of diamond jewellery rose four per cent to a new record.

The Centenary arm houses the group's foreign interests.

Mr. Ogilvie Thompson told a news briefing he hoped the Russian authorities would sign on again to the CSO marketing system, through which producers access the globe channelled sales.

"Discussions are continuing with the Russian authorities in the hope of remedying the situation and negotiating a new contract to succeed the present one," he said. "I believe we shall suc-

ceed."

Mr. Ogilvie Thompson said the CSO system gave producers a fair quota of sales and for over 60 years had brought growth and stability to the industry, with benefits for producers, cutting centres and consumers.

CSO sales of rough diamonds fell three per cent to \$4.25 billion last year, and he said the primary reason was increased sales of rough diamonds by Russia outside the quota deal.

He said these totalled "many hundreds of millions of dollars" with the stones coming from stocks rather than ongoing production.

He noted what he called "more encouraging comments from Russian sources" recently with regard to such cooperation.

"It must make business sense for Russia to enter into a contract which ensures regular monthly cash receipts which last year amounted to over \$1.0 billion," he added.

De Beers Director Gary Ralfe said Russia sold over \$2 billion worth of diamonds overall last year, of which more than \$1 billion were from stocks.

Mr. Ogilvie Thompson attributed last year's rise in world retail sales of diamond jewellery to an encouraging increase in the U.S., further growth in the Far East and "rather better than expected" sales in Europe and Japan.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	17/3/95 Close	24/3/95 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound ^a	1.5840	1.5940	0.63 %
Deutsche Mark	1.3867	1.4173	2.16%
Swiss Franc	1.1505	1.1742	2.02%
French Franc	4.9593	4.9885	0.57%
Japanese Yen	89.10	88.95	0.17 %

^a USD per ECU

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	12/3/1995 1-Month (%)	1-Month (%)	24/3/1995 1-Month (%)	1-Month (%)
U.S. Dollar	6.00	6.62	5.94	6.57
Sterling Pound	6.19	7.62	6.31	7.56
Deutsche Mark	4.78	5.37	4.76	5.22
Swiss Franc	3.50	3.96	3.46	3.75
French Franc	8.25	7.65	7.62	7.43
Japanese Yen	2.09	2.00	2.15	1.93

*Interest, bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. dollar; 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 26/3/1995

Currency	bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.0964	1.1019
Deutsche Mark	0.4856	0.4880
Swiss Franc	0.5862	0.5891
French Franc	0.1380	0.1387
Japanese Yen ^c	0.7742	0.7781
Dutch Guilder	0.4334	0.4356
Swedish Krona	0.0400	0.0402
Italian Lira ^b	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

* Per 100

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Jordan scores 32 points as Bulls defeat Hawks 99-98

By the Associated Press

MICHAEL JORDAN'S 16-footer at the buzzer capped a 32-point performance that carried the Chicago Bulls to a 99-98 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday night in Atlanta.

It was the first time Jordan had the opportunity to shoot with the game on the line since coming out of retirement, and he made it count, giving the Bulls a 2-2 record since his return.

Jordan hit 14 of 26 shots, all four free throws, grabbed four rebounds and had two assists in 44 minutes. He got

18 of his points in the third quarter, matching Atlanta's total for the period.

Mookie Blaylock led the Hawks with 20 points and Steve Smith added 19. Scottie Pippen had 23 and Toni Kukoc 18 for the Bulls.

Hornets 105, Cavaliers 97: In Charlotte, North Carolina, the Charlotte Hornets clinched the franchise's second playoff berth by beating the Cleveland Cavaliers behind Alonzo Mourning's 23 points and 11 rebounds.

Charlotte also secured a third straight season of .500 or better.

Cleveland, playing for the seventh time in 10 days, had won their previous two games and were led by Chris Mills' 26 points.

Larry Johnson had 22 points and a career-high 12 assists for Charlotte. Hersey Hawkins had 21, Scott Burrell added 14 and Muggsy Bogues 13.

Pistons 104, Celtics 103: In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rookie Grant Hill had a season-high 33 points and 16 rebounds and Oliver Miller's tap-in with three seconds left gave the Detroit Pistons a victory over the Boston Cel-

tics. The game had 15 second-half lead changes, including three in the final 17 seconds.

Allan Houston added 29 points for Detroit. Dominique Wilkins had 32 for Boston, while Sherman Douglas scored 22.

Boston lost for the third time in four games.

Nets 96, Heat 95: At Miami, Derrick Coleman hit two free throws with 25.4 seconds to play and the New Jersey Nets snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over the Miami Heat.

A 3-point basket by Glen Rice, who scored 30 points, gave Miami a 95-94 lead with 1:19 to go. After the teams swapped scoreless possessions, Coleman went up for a jumper and was fouled by John Salley.

Coleman had 23 points and Chris Morris added 22 for New Jersey. Kevin Willis added 23 for Miami.

Pacers 84, 76ers 75: In Philadelphia, Reggie Miller scored 27 points as the Indiana Pacers overcame a poor offensive performance against the Philadelphia 76ers with their sixth win in seven games.

The 76ers used an 8-4 run to open the fourth quarter, closing to 63-62 with 6:40 to play. But the Pacers pulled away, outscoring the 76ers 21-13 the rest of the way.

Shawn Bradley led Philadelphia, which has lost 10 of 11, with 23 points and eight blocked shots.

Spurs 113, Bucks 105: At Milwaukee, David Robinson scored 27 points and Sean Elliott added 19 as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Milwaukee Bucks for their seventh straight victory.

The Bucks, who had won three games in a row, got 28 points from Glenn Robinson and 25 from Todd Day. With the loss, Milwaukee fell out of a tie for the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

San Antonio has won 26 of its last 30 games and is 4-0 since forward Dennis Rodman, the NBA's leading rebounder, separated his shoulder in a motorcycle accident.

Mavericks 117, Jazz 110: At Dallas, J. Neal Mashburn scored 28 points and Jason Kidd had 21, including four in the final 20 seconds, as Dallas won its fourth straight game with a victory over Utah.

It is the Mavericks' longest winning streak since 1990, when they also won four in a row.

Kidd's layup with 20 seconds left gave Dallas a

Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan goes up for a shot (AFP photo)

113-110 lead. He added two free throws with 16 seconds remaining to make it 115-110. Karl Malone scored 35 points to pace Utah, which had won 12 of its previous 14 games and entered the night with the league's best road record.

Los Angeles, Patrick Ewing scored 27 points and John Starks fuelled a 20-point effort with six 3-pointers as the New York Knicks beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Charles Smith added seven of his 14 points down the stretch to help the Knicks overcome a triple-double by Pooh Richardson.

RESULTS

Chicago	99	Atlanta	98
Charlotte	105	Cleveland	97
Detroit	104	Boston	103
New Jersey	96	Miami	95
Indiana	84	Philadelphia	75
Dallas	117	Utah	110
San Antonio	113	Milwaukee	105
New York	94	LA Clippers	86

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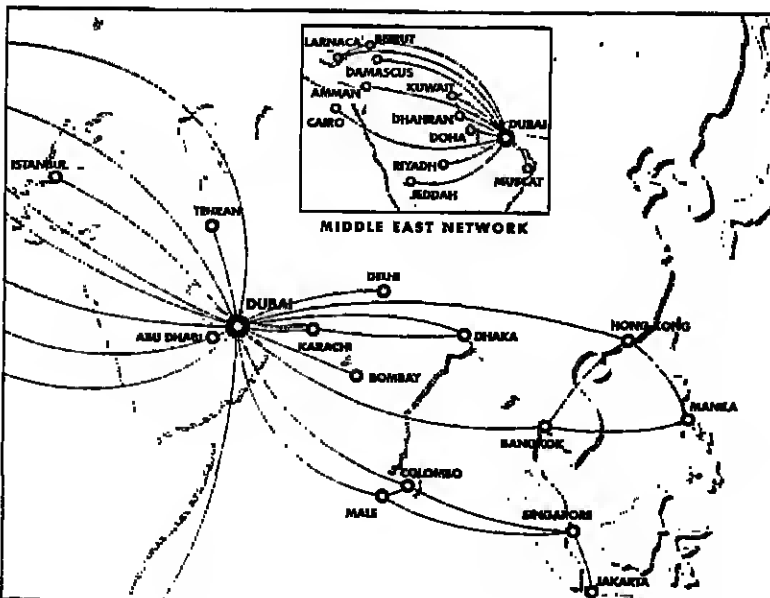
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Le Guen takes Cantona's captain's arm band

PARIS (AFP) — Paul Le Guen replaces the suspended Eric Cantona as captain for France's European Championship group One qualifying match against Israel in Tel Aviv next Wednesday.

Ironically, the midfielder lost the captaincy to Alain Roche, who will be in the centre of defence against Israel, at his club side Paris St Germain at the start of this season.

Cantona, whose appeal against a two-week prison sentence for assault is heard next Friday, is suspended until Sept. 30 for attacking a Crystal Palace fan while playing for his English club Manchester United.

French national coach Aime Jacquet recalled Auxerre playmaker Corentin Martins to fill Cantona's role behind a tow-man Nantes strike force of Patrice Loko and Nicolas Ouedec.

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Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15		Andy Garcia — Mae Ryan in When A Man Loves A Woman Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadileh Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Damme STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00		Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqla daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Haifa Al Agha in the children's play ☆☆ Sa'di's Return ☆☆		Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day		Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sunday	



Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, wearing white cap, is escorted from the release from prison March 25 (AFP photo)

Tyson arrives home

SOUTHINGTON, Ohio (R) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson returned on Saturday to his mansion in eastern Ohio after three years in prison, as the boxing world anxiously waited to see if he can mount a comeback.

Tyson's five-car caravan arrived at his Southington, Ohio mansion, turning through wrought-iron gates adorned with yellow ribbons and driving up to the stone and wood home.

"Mike, welcome back to your family," read a sign hung on the mansion's split-rail fence.

The crowd of about 100 reporters, fans and neighbors that had been gathered since dawn stirred as the cars approached. One group of youths cheered. Other homes were also festooned with yellow ribbons.

"We're pleased to have Mike home," said Jim Abrams, who lives across the street in a more modest home.

Tyson left prison at dawn after three years behind bars for the rape of an 18-year-old beauty pageant

contestant Desiree Washington, and was led to a waiting black stretch limousine surrounded by bodyguards and his promoter, Don King.

Tyson, wearing an Islamic prayer cap, did not acknowledge the crowds at his mansion nor the media horde waiting outside the Indiana youth centre near Indianapolis, where he was incarcerated.

But reporters at the prison were given a written statement saying, "I'm very happy to be out and on my way home. I want to thank everyone for their support. I will have more to say in the future."

His car sped off from the prison, tracked aloft by four news helicopters.

Tyson, who converted to Islam two years ago, stopped with his group at a mosque near plainfield, where his spiritual advisor had invited him to morning prayer.

He spent an hour inside and was joined by former heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali, who converted to Islam many years ago, and by rap singer M.C. Hammer.

He then headed to the Indianapolis Airport where he boarded a private jet to Cleveland.

In leaving prison, Tyson traded a cramped cell and 65-cents-an-hour prison wage for 2,787 square metre, 14-room mansion where he had reportedly kept a fleet of 30 telephone-equipped cars.

How much is left of the estimated \$100 million he grossed in the ring remained in question. Published reports have suggested that his handlers and legal fees have depleted his fortune, putting pressure on the once-fearsome fighter to jump back into the ring.

Deals worth millions have already been speculated on and Tyson has said he would like to fight again. He has been quoted as saying he is now, at age 28, wiser and wavier.

Tyson was 20 in 1986 when he became the youngest man ever to win the world heavyweight crown. He lost it in 1990 to a knockout by James "Buster" Douglas in Tokyo in one of the biggest upsets in boxing history.

Graf's earnings reach \$15m mark with Lipton final win over Date

KEY BISCAINE (Agencies) — Steffi Graf surpassed the \$15 million mark in career prize money and inched closer to the world's number one ranking by winning the \$4.1 million Lipton Championships title Saturday.

The second-seeded Graf successfully defended her Lipton crown by beating seventh seed Kimiko Date of Japan 6-1 6-4.

Graf collected \$205,000 for her fourth Lipton title, boosting her career winnings to \$15,005,490 — fifth on the all-time list behind Ivan Lendl, Martina Navratilova, Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker.

The 78-minute match was not one of Graf's finest performances, with the German star committing 29 unforced errors. But Date, who came back from 6-1 5-1 down to beat Gabriela Sabatini in her semifinal, had 38 misuses of her own.

It was expected to be a romp for Graf with Date suffering from a sore shoulder, and Graf did not disappoint in the first set. She raced to a 5-0 lead before the ninth-ranked Date could win a game, holding serve for 5-1.

Graf began to look shaky in the next game, double-faulting to reach 30-all, but she produced a forehand winner and a cleverly disguised dropshot to win the set.

"She played very good today," said Date, who earned \$103,000 as runner-up. "I tried very hard but I couldn't do anything."

The resilient Date remained undeterred in the second set, despite dropping serve in the opening game. She kept her groundstrokes hard and flat, forcing errors from Graf.

Graf regained control of the match by breaking Date for 3-2 en route to a 5-3 lead. Date won one more game, but as storm clouds gathered, Graf beat the rain by serving out the match with a punishing forehand that Date netted.

"It felt great," said Graf of the victory that gave her



Steffi Graf

third title of the year. Graf, who lost her number one ranking to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario when injuries kept her from defending titles early in the year, has now put together a 14-0 match record

before the final and I haven't had that for a while." Sampras and Agassi teammates and rivals Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras will board the Con-

corde on Monday and fly to Europe for next weekend's second-round Davis Cup match between the United States and Italy.

"I couldn't ask for a better teammate," Agassi said. And he couldn't ask for a better opponent. The friendly rivals meet for the third time this year in the final at the Lipton Championships.

Sampras will remain top-ranked regardless of the outcome.

Agassi, ranked No. 2, beat Sampras in the final at the Australian Open in January. Sampras beat Agassi in the final at Indian Wells this month.

Following the latter match, Agassi said in a court-side television interview, "don't worry, dad. I'll kick Pete's butt next week."

After advancing to Sunday's final, Agassi said, "everything is according to plan so far."

Agassi has a 46-4 record since the start of last year's U.S. Open. Sampras is 20-3 in 1995, holds an 8-6 edge on Agassi and is seeking his third consecutive Lipton title.

Sampras shook off a stomach ailment to beat Agassi in last year's final. Both know what to expect this time.

"I'll be coming in," Sampras said, "and he'll be staying back."

Each survived a scare from a Swede in Friday's semifinals. Agassi won the final seven points to beat Magnus Larsson 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-1). Sampras recovered from a slow start to win 10 consecutive games and beat Jonas Bjorkman 4-6, 6-0, 6-1.

"These two guys," Bjorkman said, "are probably the ones dominating men's tennis now."

The two Americans are enjoying the rivalry. They're quick to praise each other, and Sampras had no problem with Agassi's brash pledge following the Indian Wells final.

"He was just having some fun," Sampras said. "It wasn't anything malicious. I'm sure he wants to beat me, and you know I want to beat him."

Italy's win fails to silence critics

SALERNO, Italy (R) — Italy head for a key European championship qualifier with Ukraine in Kiev on Wednesday in an uneasy frame of mind after a 4-1 win over Estonia failed to silence their critics.

"Italy wake up after the jitters," was the verdict of daily La Repubblica, summing up the lukewarm media reaction to Saturday's win over the group four whipping boys.

The Italians struggled until Gianfranco Zola put them ahead in the 45th minute with his first international goal. Milan midfielder Demetrio Albertini, Zola and debutant striker Fabrizio Ravanelli netted again for Italy in the second half.

Estonia scored their first goal of the qualifiers through substitute Martin Rein in the 72nd minute.

Croatia's 4-0 hammering of Ukraine in Zagreb on Saturday reinforced their position at the head of the group.

Croatia have a maximum 12 points from, followed by Italy with seven points while Lithuania are third on six but with a game in hand. Ukraine have four points from four games.

Second place in the group should be enough to take Italy, who did not qualify for the 1992 tournament, to the finals in England next year.

The six second-placed teams with the best records qualify directly while the remaining two group runners-up meet in a play-off for the last spot.

But the latest patchy performance from the World Cup runners-up rekindled tensions between coach Arrigo Sacchi and the Italian media.

"Clearly some journalists are used to seeing such great cage matches that the national team pales by comparison," Sacchi said on Sunday as his strategy.

"I don't think I would have had the same things if an Italian club had won 4-1 in a European match." Diminutive parma attacker Zola, winning his 11th cap, was the undoubted star, his individual skill injecting some life into Italy's sometimes ponderous approach play.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Russian Kremlyova fails dope test

MOSCOW (R) — Russian middle-distance runner Lubov Kremlyova is to be disqualified for four years after failing a dope test, Valentin Balahnichev, president of the Russian Athletics Federation, said Saturday. Kremlyova, 34, won the 1,500 bronze medal at the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona earlier this month. "Unfortunately she has broken the rules of IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation)," Balahnichev told reporters. "It's a pity, but we will have to part with her," he added.

Braves replacement pitcher killed

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — The Atlanta Braves' spring training exhibition game with the Montreal Expos was canceled Saturday because of the death of replacement pitcher David Shottkowski in an apparent robbery. Shottkowski, 30, of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, was found dead on the sidewalk in front of an office high rise near the team hotel about 6:45 p.m. Braves general manager John Schuerholz said Saturday the team was offering a \$5,000 reward for "any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for this tragic and senseless death."

Porto wins to hold 4-point lead

LISBON (R) — Porto retained their four-point lead over Sporting in the Portuguese first division soccer title race when they beat Chaves 2-0 at home Saturday. Sporting kept in touch with a laboured 1-0 away win over struggling Beira Mar but with eight games to go Porto are favourites to take the title. Porto, coached by former England manager Bobby Robson, head the table with 47 points followed by Sporting with 43. Reigning champions Benfica lie third with 37 points and a match in hand. Porto scored both goals in the first half.

Clinton: baseball fans losing interest

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Saturday warned Major League Baseball owners and players that they face the "ultimate hazard" of losing the loyalty of fans if they strike drags on much longer. "I think both the players and the owners have to be aware that ultimately this game depends upon the fans, Clinton said in an interview with ESPN radio. "And if fans finally get sick of it and decide they'd rather do something else, that's not good for baseball," said Clinton.

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North-South vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 7 10
♥ Q J 2
♦ 9 10
♣ A 10 3 2
WEST
♠ 4 2
♥ K 10 8 3
♦ K 10 8 3
♣ 9 7 4
SOUTH
♠ 2 4
♥ 7
♦ A K Q 10
♣ K J 9 0

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1NT 2♣
2♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
3♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♠
Here's an unusual hand, played in a rubber bridge game at New York's Honors Club. The same play was available to both the declarer and a defender, but only one side found it. As the cards lie, North would have done better to shoot for three no trump rather than raise clubs. That contract would have depended only on finding the queen of clubs and declarer would probably have had enough clue to point to the right play. Five clubs was another matter. West led the two of spades and it was obvious to the declarer, Fred Chang, that it was a singleton. When East played the ace of spades, Chang smoothly followed with the king! Unsure about the spade position (West's lead could have been fourth-best), East shifted to the ace of hearts and West's six only served to confuse matters. After considerable thought, East decided to continue with a low heart. Declarer ruffed and, since all signs indicated East had about nine cards in the major suits but had not made a balanced double, declarer elected to play East for a singleton club. The king of clubs was cashed, the ace was overruffed with the ten of clubs and another heart was ruffed. On the third diamond a spade was pitched from dummy, a diamond was ruffed, and after the last trump was drawn, declarer claimed 11 tricks.

West missed an opportunity to direct the defense. On the ace of hearts that defender should have followed declarer's lead in the spade suit and discarded the king! That would have made it clear to East that continuing with hearts was useless and a spade ruff would have defeated the contract.

Jordan Times
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Israel optimistic in talks with Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli and Syrian ambassadors held more talks at the weekend in Washington amid growing expectations of a breakthrough in peace negotiations, Israeli officials said here Sunday.

The ambassadors of the two countries in the United States, Itamar Rabinovich of Israel and Walid Muallem of Syria, met Friday and Saturday and were due to hold more talks on Sunday, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

Dennis Ross, the special U.S. coordinator on the peace process, attended the sessions.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on Israel Radio that he expected concrete results from these talks. "The atmosphere is relatively positive and in my opinion the impression is that the latest stands taken by Damascus must be considered to be rather moderate," Mr. Sarid said.

"Let's hope that something constructive will come out of these discussions," he added. Mr. Sarid said: "It was very difficult to speak of a date or timetable for a resumption of talks between the two countries' chiefs of staff, who met each other for the first time on Dec. 22 but made no apparent progress."

"But one can say that if we are satisfied with security arrangements (on the Golan) and if we are satisfied with the rhythm and character of the normalisation (of relations), then we will take a decision on the withdrawal

from the Golan Heights," he said.

An Israeli official told the Haaretz newspaper that it will only be known at the end of the week what the chances are for restarting negotiations between the top generals.

The two ambassadors met Monday and Tuesday, for their first talks in three months following a Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Masharka assails Syria

Syrian Vice-President Zuhair Masharka accused Israel of rejecting peace and drawing up a plan to dominate the Arab World, in an interview published Sunday.

"Israel is drawing up a plan to target the future of the Arab world," Mr. Masharka told Al Baath newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling party.

The Jewish state wanted to be a nuclear power in the region and "create a new Middle East where it would reign supreme," he said.

He added that Israel was only looking to "impose its hegemony on the Arab World by dominating it politically, economically, militarily and culturally."

"If the peace process launched more than three years ago has not produced results, it's because of the intransigence of Israel which refuses to implement international resolutions," said Mr. Masharka, one of Syria's three vice presidents.



ASSAULT ON TUZLA: Bosnian Serb soldiers cover their ears while firing heavy mortar shells from their positions on Mount Majevica, which overlooks the Bosnian Muslim stronghold of Tuzla, some 160 kilometres north of the

capital Sarajevo. Heavy fighting between Muslim-led Bosnian government troops and Bosnian Serbs continues in the area (see inside) (AFP photo)

Work under way on water project tenders

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Experts have started work on drawing up tender documents inviting offers to conduct feasibility studies on water projects called for in the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, and the bidding process for the projects could begin in April, senior Jordanian negotiator Munther Haddadin said Sunday.

Dr. Haddadin, who heads the Kingdom's negotiations on water-related issues, said the cost of the projects, which include two dams and diversion structures, was estimated at \$535 million.

The European Union (EU) is financing the feasibility studies of the projects with a grant of 11 million European currency units (about \$14 million). The EU has also indicated that it would be willing to finance the construction of the projects depending on the outcome of the feasibility studies.

The financing will be in the

form of a loan from the European Development Bank, the monetary arm of the EU, while the grant for the feasibility studies is coming directly from the 15-nation European bloc.

The final touches to the EU grant were put during a visit His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan paid two weeks ago to Bonn, where he held talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Assistant European Commissioner Manuel Marin. Part of the talks was also attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Israel and Jordan agreed in February that the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) will manage the projects.

"A European consultant firm has already started drawing up the bid documents and we expect the documents to be ready in a month," Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times.

The contracts are expected to be awarded soon after

receiving the bids, with the completion date for the studies tentatively set as end of June. The construction of the projects will depend on securing financing and then the process of tendering the construction contracts. No dates were immediately available for this process.

The peace treaty also calls for a desalination plant to be built in Israeli territory to provide 50 million cubic metres of water to Jordan every year.

"This is an Israeli responsibility," said Dr. Haddadin. Reports in the Israeli press have estimated the cost of the proposed plant at \$50 million.

Israel, whose annual per capita income around \$12,000, does not qualify for outright assistance for the project from the European Union.

The peace treaty provides for Jordan to get 215 million cubic metres of water through dams diversion struc-

tures and the desalination plant in addition to about 110 million to 120 million cubic metres of water it is already using from the Yarmouk River.

The completion of all projects is expected to take up to two years.

In the meantime, work on a 3.5-kilometre pipeline to bring Lake Tiberias water in northern Israel to King Abdullah Canal in the Jordan Valley is expected to be completed in May so that Jordan could start getting up to 30 million cubic metres of water every year by May 15 as part of the 215 million cubic metres stipulated in the treaty.

The contract for the JD 3.5 million pipeline is undertaken locally and paid for by the Jordanian government.

The pipeline will bring 20 million cubic metres of Lake Tiberias water between May 15 and Oct. 15. Israel will provide another 10 million cubic metres.

Israel seizes 2 infiltrators

GAZA (Agencies) — The Israeli army said on Sunday it captured two wanted guerrillas who crossed the border from Egypt trying to enter the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Two other wanted Hamas men eluded the army and slipped into Gaza, it said.

Hamas leads violent opposition to the 1993 Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, under which Israel handed over control of most of the Gaza Strip to Palestinians last May. Israeli forces continue to patrol a border strip between Gaza and Egypt.

"Two Palestinian armed members of Hamas wanted by Israeli security forces, were arrested by the army overnight as they attempted to enter the self-rule area from Egyptian territory," an army spokesman said.

"Two others succeeded in escaping to the territory of the Palestinian Authority."

Israel has discovered hand-dug tunnels leading from one side of the border to the other, filling them to prevent Palestinians from crossing the border illicitly.

Palestinian police in Gaza said they released overnight a Hamas spiritual leader detained for questioning on Friday.

Hamas had strongly condemned the police for detaining Sheikh Mohammad Shams, a preacher at a mosque in the Shati refugee camp.

Palestinian police have detained dozens of Hamas activists in a crackdown on Hamas, which has launched a series of deadly attacks on Israeli targets.

Jewish communities in the Gaza Strip went on alert after the army reported that the two entered Gaza.

A state of alert was declared in all Jewish communities in the area, including Karm Shalom in Israel, settlers said.

Under the accords that launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho last May, Israel provides security at international borders and at Gaza's Jewish settlements...

Flowers claims Clinton did inhale

NEW YORK (AP) — Gen. Jeffrey Flowers knew Bill Clinton as an occasional marijuana smoker who carried his own joints and once talked about getting high on cocaine, according to excerpts from her new book in New York magazine. "By the way, he most certainly did inhale," Flowers writes in "passion and betrayal."

When asked about the book Saturday, Mr. Clinton's spokesman Mike McCarty said, "The White House is not going to comment on any cash-for-trash stories."

Mr. Clinton denies Ms. Flowers' claim that they had a 12-year affair ending in 1989. The excerpts, in the magazine's April 3 issue, mostly focus on Mr. Clinton and drugs.

"When he casually put his hand in his pants pocket and pulled out a joint one night, I was startled but kept silent," she wrote. "I thought how foolish it was of him to carry marijuana around, but it was typical of his bulletproof attitude."

Prince Charles in deal with Disney

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles has agreed to a deal with the U.S. Walt Disney Studios to market a video of a cartoon he wrote 25 years ago, a newspaper said. The Sunday Times said the heir to the throne and the Hollywood company negotiated the deal, which could bring the prince more than \$1 million (\$1.6 million), last November in Los Angeles after the prince attended a film premiere there.

The Legend of Lochnagar, which the prince wrote to amuse his brothers when they were small boys, is set to join the cartoon successes of the Walt Disney Studio: Mickey Mouse, Dumbo, the Jungle Book and the Lion King, the newspaper said.

The story of the selfish cave dweller who mends his ways when he is reduced to a three-inch (7.62 cm) tall creature, was animated by the Dave Edwards Studio in Wales and shown on British television in 1993.

Minister who lost memory may lose post

HONOLULU (AFP) — A Solomon Islands cabinet minister who lost his memory in a car accident is likely to lose his post, Solomon Broadcasting reported Sunday.

Energy Minister Eric Seri suffered head injuries in the accident last November. According to Health Minister Gordon Mara, Mr. Seri is medically unfit to continue as a member of parliament. Mr. Mara said the energy minister's future will be decided by Governor General Moses Pitakaka and Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni.

Chocolate addicts got a real kick

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian chocolate factory owner put drugs into his product to try to hook kids, a government newspaper reported.

The owner, who was not named by the Akhbar Al-Yom daily, called the brand "Sniffing Garden" and hoped to make a fortune. But the chocolate sold in Banha province, 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Cairo, turned children pale and gave them convulsions. Their parents complained to the authorities who launched an investigation. Police discovered that drugs were mixed into the bars of chocolate and arrested the man, who had a record of drug-trafficking.

Another Dhaka English daily hits news stands

DHAKA (AFP) — The independent, Dhaka's seventh English-language daily, hit the newsstand Sunday coinciding with the celebration of Bangladesh's 24th Independence Day. With a 40-page inaugural colour issue, the paper is edited by Syed Mahboob Alam Chowdhury and owned by Beximco Media Ltd., a subsidiary of the country's leading Beximco industry and business house. It joins Bangladesh's extensive press, that includes some 45 listed dailies in Dhaka alone.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia bids to end Kuwaiti POW dispute

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A senior Russian envoy held talks here with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Sunday on a mission to gain the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war (POWs) held in Iraq since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Dmitri Volkogonov, advisor to Russian President Boris Yeltsin on POWs, said Moscow was "sparing no effort to secure the release of Kuwaiti prisoners," the official news agency KUNA reported. Mr. Volkogonov also met Sunday with the head of a Kuwaiti committee on prisoners and missing from the Gulf war, Sheikh Salam Al Sabah. The Russian official arrived here Friday for a five-day visit.

Kaddoumi visits Canberra for talks

CANBERRA (AFP) — A top-ranking leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Farouk Kaddoumi, arrived here Sunday for talks with key Australian ministers. Mr. Kaddoumi is head of the PLO's political department and chairman of the board of governors of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction. He was to meet Australian Governor-General Bill Hayden, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and Aid Minister Gordon Bilney as well as academics, diplomats and government officials during his two-day visit to Canberra. He will also visit Melbourne and Sydney to meet members of the Australian Arab and Palestinian communities before flying to New Zealand on April 2.

6 Germans held in Turkey as PKK collaborators

BONN (R) — Six Germans have been arrested in southeastern Turkey as suspected collaborators with the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), an official said on Sunday. Bonn foreign ministry spokesman Martin Erdmann said the German embassy in Ankara was trying to arrange their release from house arrest in a hotel in Cizre, south of Diyarbakir, where they have been held since Saturday. PKK guerrillas have been fighting for an independent Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey since 1984. More than 15,000 people have died in the conflict.

Nazi barrel found on Israeli beach

NAHARIYA (AFP) — A barrel of oil from a Nazi warship which sunk during World War II washed onto an Israeli beach on Sunday, Israeli radio reported. Inhabitants from the northern seaside town of Kfar Leeman alerted police to what they feared was a bomb but the authorities found the inscriptions "1942 — Wehrmacht" (Nazi army) and "200 liters," the radio said. The oil was still useable and probably came from a German warship that sunk off what was then British-mandate Palestine, the radio said.

Sudanese army retakes Nasir

KHARTOUM (AP) — Victory songs and slogans echoed through Khartoum Sunday after the army announced it had captured a strategic town controlled by rebels for eight years. An army communiqué carried on state radio said the town of Nasir, 800 kilometres south of Khartoum, was retaken Saturday. The town had served as the headquarters of the United Faction of Riak Machar, one of the southern rebel groups fighting the government in Khartoum. Nasir "was liberated Saturday afternoon and the afternoon prayer call was heard in the town," the communiqué said. State radio broadcast songs of victory and slogans that echoed through loudspeakers in the streets of Khartoum Sunday. There was no mention of casualties in the communiqué. The southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) took up arms against the government in 1983. Over the years, the SPLA has split into splinter groups, one of them led by Mr. Machar.

Egypt wants hard labour for antiquities' theft

CAIRO (AFP) — The theft of ancient Egyptian treasures should be punishable by years of hard labour, the head of the country's antiquities council said Sunday. "We want the maximum sentences possible because we feel that anyone who steals an antiquity is stealing the history of a nation," Abdel Halim Nur Eddin told AFP. "Under current legislation the maximum sentence is three years in prison or a fine of 2,000 to 3,000 pounds (\$390-\$590) which is not enough to put dealers off." A committee of experts has drawn up recommendations to amend the legislation and they will soon go before parliament, Mr. Nureddin said. The comments came after the discovery of a major network smuggling the treasures to Britain.

Ali Mahdi says Aideed is bringing back chaos

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Self-styled Somali President Ali Mahdi Mohammed lashed out here on Sunday against his bitter rival General Mohammed Farah Aideed, accusing him of leading Somalia back into chaos.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in northern Mogadishu, Mr. Ali Mahdi charged that General Aideed was trying to "lead Somalia into chaos again by undermining agreements reached in Mogadishu on Feb. 20 by our two main factions to minimise possibilities of war that led to the reopening of the port of Mogadishu."

Appealing to Somalis not to start killing each other, Mr. Ali Mahdi said Gen. Aideed had showed reluctance to accept a broad-based national conference.

"Our goodwill gesture has been undermined and all the agreements reached so far may collapse," Mr. Ali Mahdi said in the first sign of an open disagreement between him and Gen. Aideed since the departure 23 days ago of the last U.N. peacekeepers.

Mr. Ali Mahdi said that a committee negotiating the reconciliation between his faction and Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance

(SNA) had planned a meeting between him and Gen. Aideed on March 20 to mark the inauguration of Mogadishu Regional Authority, where he would have announced the convening of a national reconciliation conference (NRC).

"But unfortunately, Gen. Aideed came up with his habitual absurdity of ignoring the will of the vast majority of Somalis, and I decided not to meet him until he accepts the convening of the NRC," Mr. Ali Mahdi said.

The north Mogadishu faction leader also accused Gen. Aideed of making negative propaganda by stating through his south Mogadishu-based radio that a conference the general had organised would soon name a new government.

Mr. Ali Mahdi said that over 10 regional and 58 district councils were established and certified by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), but none works yet because of lack of authority due to Gen. Aideed's feet-dragging.

"One can't collect taxes without the ministry of finance and you can't have Mogadishu's authority as well when you don't have the minister of interior," Mr. Ali Mahdi said.

Rabbani in new offensive

KADAI HADAR KHAN (AP) — Heavy artillery rounds blasted the mountainous southwest of Kabul on Sunday as presidential troops launched a ground assault against the rival Taliban militia.

Behind the front lines, near the village of Kadai Haidar Khan, about 17 kilometres southwest of Kabul, President Burhanuddin Rabbani's men prepared for battle.

With rocket launchers slung over their shoulders and automatic rifles at their feet, the soldiers recited a verse from the Holy Koran and prayed they would return safely. Then they piled aboard tanks and headed towards the front-line about 10 kilometres away.

Government soldiers are pitted against the Taliban, a group made up mostly of former Islamic theology students.

"We want to break their front line and push them out," said Abdullah, a Defence Ministry spokesman who uses only one name.

The government claimed to have captured several Taliban positions in the mon-

U.S., N. Korea silent on nuclear reactor talks

BERLIN (R) — The United States and North Korea on Sunday ended a second day of talks aimed at breaking a deadlock over the future of Pyongyang's nuclear programme with both sides declining to say whether any progress was made.

U.S. and North Korean delegations met at North Korea's old embassy to the former communist East Germany for more than three hours to try to salvage a crucial U.S.-backed plan to steer Pyongyang away from building nuclear weapons.

A North Korean spokesman said the two sides would meet again at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) on Monday at the U.S. mission in eastern Berlin.

"They will not be meeting again this afternoon. Talks will resume tomorrow," the spokesman said.

A diplomatic source said the two delegations spent the rest of the day working with their respective teams and possibly contacting their capitals. Negotiations were scheduled to last until Wednesday at the earliest.

The Berlin talks stem from a key U.S.-North Korean accord signed in Geneva last October under which Pyongyang pledged to freeze its nuclear programme and stop

building two new graphite-moderated reactors. In exchange, the communist state was promised safer light-water reactors paid for by a consortium of the United States, South Korea and Japan in a package which will cost them \$4.5 billion.

Graphite reactors produce more of the plutonium that can be used for making nuclear arms.

The agreement averted a serious crisis over North Korea's atomic industry, which the West suspected was a cover for a secret nuclear arms programme.

Concern began to emerge in 1992 when inspectors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that North Korea had more plutonium than it was admitting.

The Berlin talks were sagged on Pyongyang's opposition to accepting light-water reactors from its arch-rival South Korea.

North Korean negotiators, led by top foreign trade official Kim Jong-U, have ruled out South Korean technology ever since the Berlin round of technical talks began last September.

Pyongyang favours a nuclear plant model from Germany's Siemens, or from the United States or France.

Lack of funding threatens Iraq relief programmes

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Relief programmes providing the Iraqi people with basic needs since the imposition of United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iraq in August 1990, face collapse if international donors do not come up with financing, an aid official has warned.

At a meeting in Geneva last week, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) appealed for \$188 million, but head of Care Australia Brian Doolan estimated the total amount to arise from the call would be about \$25 million.

"The economic isolation of Iraq has resulted in a humanitarian emergency," Mr. Doolan said. "The cur-

rent isolation cannot be continued unless the international community is prepared to address the humanitarian needs of the people of Iraq."

He noted that the humanitarian programme in Iraq was set up when U.N. members voted for it after imposing international sanctions against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Doolan, who attended the Geneva meeting, told the Jordan Times: "The U.N. humanitarian programme aims to address problems and was designed so people didn't suffer from long-term hardships."

But today the same U.N. members who originally voted for the relief programme are not extending support for it, he said. Children, Mr. Doolan

said, are the most vulnerable group exposed to the devastating effects of the sanctions.

"Children will carry the legacy of the sanctions. Children with malnutrition cannot learn," he said, adding that a representative of Medical Aid for Iraq told the Geneva meeting that all children presented at clinics showed mild to severe malnutrition.

In addition, he said, non-functional sewerage and sanitation facilities are leading to children using playground areas as toilets.

Classroom facilities are poor with a "chronic" lack of paper, blackboards and desks. "Children are sitting five to six at a desk. Even if there was paper to write on, there isn't enough space to do so," he said. "There are no toilet

bowls, no school books, and no glass in the windows. We're penalising the children, stopping them from getting an education. Do we want an ignorant Iraq?"

Care Australia, which represents Care International in Iraq, is one of two international, permanent NGOs operating in central and southern Iraq under official agreements with the Iraqi government.

Care International was established after World War II and now consists of 11 member nations. Care Australia, set up in 1987, is one of those member nations and represents the whole agency in Iraq, Yemen, Mauritania and Jordan.

The agency is a major implementing partner for U.N. agencies, providing them logistical support for the distribution of kerosene and food in the north of the country. The agency also carries out road repairs.

U.N. agencies working in Iraq include the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

In 1994, the U.N. inter-agency humanitarian programme for Iraq sought \$288 million to address basic needs, but it only received

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